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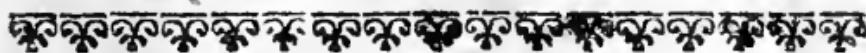




THE
HISTORY
OF

Jemmy and Jenny Jessamy.

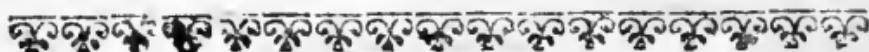
VOL. I.





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THE

HISTORY

OF

Jemmy and Jenny Jessamy.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

By the AUTHOR of
The HISTORY of *Betsy Thoughtless*.



London:

Printed for T. GARDNER, at Cowley's Head,
facing St. Clement's Church, in the Strand;
and sold by all Booksellers in Town and
Country.

M,D,CC,LIII.

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History of
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CONTENTS

TO THE

First VOLUME.

C H A P. I.

MAY more properly be called an introduction to the ensuing history, than a part of it.

p. 1

C H A P. II.

Contains the narrative of a very odd adventure, but perfectly a'-pro-pos, tho' at present it may perhaps appear a little foreign to the business in hand.

9

C H A P. III.

Is of still more importance than the former.

25

C H A P. IV.

Will probably occasion various conjectures on what is to come.

40

C H A P. V.

Is somewhat more explicit than the former.

50

C H A P. VI.

Contains some things well worthy of being seriously attended to, by those especially for whose service they are chiefly inserted.

61

A

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

Affords fresh matter for edification to those who stand in need of it, as well as entertainment to such who do not. 75

C H A P. VIII.

Will occasion various speculations in the inquisitive reader. 83

C H A P. IX.

Has something in it of the marvellous. 98

C H A P. X.

Affords but small matter of entertainment; yet, if well consider'd, may be of singular use to some readers. 108

C H A P. XI.

A little more to the purpose. 116

C H A P. XII.

Contains a very notable Instance of friendship a-la-mode. 127

C H A P. XIII.

Is full of remarkable and interesting particulars. 137

C H A P. XIV.

Seems big with the promise of some mighty matters hereafter to be brought to light. 147

C H A P. XV.

Contains an example that for a woman to be too good is not one of those things which are impossible to be found in human life. 158

C H A P. XVI.

Treats only on such matters as it is highly probable some readers will be apt to say might have been recited in a more laconic manner, if not totally omitted; but as there are others, the author imagines much the greater number, who may be of a different opinion, it is judged proper that the majority should be obliged. 170

C H A P. XVII.

Will in all likelihood appear, to the greatest part of our readers, a good deal more interesting than the former. 182

C H A P. XVIII.

Contains a brief account of Jenny's journey to Bath; and also some passages which happen'd on her arrival there. 190

C H A P. XIX.

Treats of many things, which tho' they may seem at present less affecting than some others, yet are very necessary for the reader to be acquainted with, before we proceed farther into the history. 204

C H A P. XX.

Is taken up with a conversation of very great importance. 211

C H A P. XXI.

Gives an account of some passages, which, added to the former, affords our heroine much matter of discontent. 223

C H A P. XXII.

Affords some very useful and exemplary hints to young persons of both sexes ; which if they are not the better and wiser for, it is wholly owing to themselves, and not the fault of the author.

234

C H A P. XXIII.

Relates how, in the compass of an hour, Jenny met with two surprising adventures of very different kinds ; and the manner in which she behaved in them, with some other no less extraordinary particulars, which the reader will doubtless be puzzled to know the meaning of.

247

C H A P. XXIV.

Contains some part of the history of the furious stranger, as told by herself.

257

C H A P. XXV.

Contains a continuation of mrs. M——'s adventures.

267

C H A P. XXVI.

Will gratify the reader's impatience with the conclusion of mrs. M——'s history ; and also with what effects the recital of it produced in the minds of those who heard it.

277





THE
HISTORY
OF
Jemmy and Jenny Jessamy:

CHAP. I.

May more properly be called an introduction to the ensuing history, than a part of it.



EMMY and Jenny Jessamy, were originally descended from two male branches of the same Family, as it may be reasonably supposed, they both being of the same name, and having the same escutcheon; — but to trace how far

The HISTORY of

the relationship between them was removed, would require much time and trouble in examining old records, memorandums, and church registers, and cost more than the acquisition would be worth, as it could not be found any way material to the history.

It shall therefore suffice to say, that Jemmy was the only son of a gentleman of a competent estate, and Jenny sole daughter and heiress of a wealthy merchant ; — that their parents had always called cousins, — had lived with each other in the most perfect friendship, the tokens of which each seemed equally desirous should continue beyond the grave ; and, to this end, resolved on a marriage between their children, provided that when they arrived at years of maturity, neither of them should have any objection to such an union.

As this agreement was very early made, and the accomplishment of it was seriously wished for by both parties, all imaginable care was taken to excite in the children a mutual affection for each other, and to make the name of love familiar to them long before they knew what was meant by the words, much less could have any notion of the passion, — depending on this maxim of the poet :

Children,

Children, like tender oziers, take the bow,
And as they first are fashion'd, still will grow.

Jemmy, who had four years the advantage of Jenny, was taught to call her his little wife, even while in her cradle, and Jenny no sooner began to speak than she was made to say she loved her husband Jemmy in her heart.

As their years increas'd, and they became capable of receiving the first rudiments of education befitting their different sexes, Jemmy was sent to Eton, and Jenny to a boarding-school at a small village not far from London ; but to atone for this separation, they were instructed, by those who had the care of them, to write little epistles to each other, which they dictated in terms suitable to their age and innocence, and served to keep alive that spirit of affection, which had been inculcated in their more early infancy. — When the times of breaking up allowed them to return to their friends, they were seldom asunder, — they partook together all those diversions prepared for them by their indulgent parents, and sometimes Jemmy, and sometimes Jenny,

were at the head of the feast, — all others being but their invited guests. — Jemmy was continually presenting Jenny with some curious new invented toy, and the first fruits of Jenny's handy work, was a fine embroider'd waistcoat and cap for Jemmy.

By this means it became a kind of second nature in them to love each other, the affection they began in infancy, grew up with their years ; and if what they felt as they approach'd nearer to maturity did not amount to a passion, it was at least somewhat more than is ordinarily found between a brother and a sister.

The two fathers, however, were highly contented with the effect their endeavours had produced in the hearts of their children, and doubted not but by the prudent measures had been taken in the education of both, they should one day see them make very shining figures in the state of marriage, which they resolved should be delayed no longer than till Jemmy had arrived at the age of one and twenty, at which time Jenny would be some months past seventeen.

But how uncertain is life ! — how fallible the prospects it presents ! — it often happens

happens that when they seem most near, they either vanish of themselves, or we are suddenly snatch'd from them : — the father of Jenny, though a man whose healthy constitution, according to all appearance, promised a much longer date, died in an apoplectic fit, and she became an orphan three years before the time prefix'd for the completion of her marriage.

This fatal accident must necessarily involve the tender and affectionate heart of this young girl in very great affliction ; but it was less severely felt, as she had always been bred to look on the father of Jemmy as a second parent to herself ; — she, therefore, hesitated not to commit the large fortune she was left mistress of entirely to his care, and chose him for her guardian, according to the forms of law.

Soon after her father's death, finding she had attain'd all those accomplishments that could be taught her in a boarding-school, she removed from thence, and with the approbation of her guardian, went to live with a family where she had a much better opportunity of seeing the world, and knowing how to conform herself to the customs

and manners of it, than ever she could have done by the precise rules observed in the place she came from.

Jemmy had some time before left Eton, and was gone to Oxford, in order to finish his studies; but he obtain'd leave from the head of the college to make frequent visits to London, — induced thereto, by the double obligation of testifying his duty to his father, and affection to his mistress; — to these two motives, a third, perhaps, might be added, equally prevalent with either of the former, — that of partaking the pleasures of the town, of which he was no less fond, than most others of his sex and age.

He was but just return'd to the university, from whence he had made a pretty long excursion, when he was suddenly recall'd to London: — The old gentleman was seiz'd with a pluretic fever, which, notwithstanding all the remedies proper in such cases were apply'd, made so swift a progress towards his heart, as threaten'd an immediate dissolution; — it indeed proved so, for tho' Jemmy, on the melancholy news, took horse the same moment, and rode post to town, he arrived but just time enough to

JEMMY and JENNY JESSAMY.
to see this best of fathers breath his last.

The pangs of death were on him, yet were his senses perfect; — on his son's approach, a gleam of satisfaction diffused itself through all his late disordered features; — he collected all the strength that was left in him to raise himself a little, and taking hold of Jemmy's hand, and joining it to that of Jenny's, who sat weeping by the bed side, — ‘ My dear children, said he, I regret the loss of life for nothing so much as because I shall be deprived of seeing that happiness, which I hope you will soon enjoy together; ’ — he would have added something more, but his voice forsook him, and he expired that instant.

Few young heirs look upon any thing as a real matter of affliction, which makes them masters of themselves and fortunes; but Jemmy was of a different way of thinking, he had a great share both of good sense and good nature; and besides what filial duty demanded from him, love and gratitude for the indulgence with which he had always been treated by his father, made him lament his loss with the most unfeign'd and poignant sorrow.

Jenny was also very deeply affected at this event; she had been truly sensible of the value she ought to set upon so faithful a guardian, and so sincere a friend; and while she used her endeavours to give his son some consolation, stood in almost equal need of receiving it herself.

The prudent old gentleman, tho' perhaps without any apprehensions of being so near his end, had some months before made his will, by which it appeared, on examination, that he had appointed trustees to manage both for his son and intended daughter-in-law, in case he should die before they arrived at the age of acting for themselves, and also, that by his great œconomy, he had saved out of the receipts of his estates several considerable sums of money, which he had placed in the publick funds, — so that Jeminy found himself in possession of a much larger fortune than he had imagined, or had been made to hope for.

Soon after the melancholy solemnity of the funeral was over, he returned to Oxford; but stay'd no longer there than was necessary to take a decent leave of the gentlemen of the college, and other students

students with whom he had contracted the most intimacy.

But none of his friends or acquaintance, either wonder'd at, or condemned the haste he made to quit the university, not doubting but the sole motive of his doing so was the laudable affection for the lady intended to be his future bride.



C H A P. II.

Contains the narrative of a very odd adventure, but perfectly a'-pro-pos, tho' at present it may perhaps appear a little foreign to the business in hand.

DURING the short time that Jemmy stay'd at Oxford, his fair mistress took it into her head to make a visit to a friend in the country, about some one or two and twenty miles distant from London, where she had received several pressing invitations to come, but had hitherto been prevented from complying by one accident or other.

This was a young lady, for whom Jenny had as great a regard as for any one of her female acquaintance ; — they had received part of their education together, and tho' Sophia, for so she was called, being somewhat older than Jenny, had much sooner left the school, yet their intimacy was not broke off by this separation, and they continued to see each other as often as opportunity permitted ; — but the brother of Sophia, who was a bachelor, having prevail'd with his sister to come down, and take upon her the management of his house, had now occasioned between these ladies an absence for many months.

It is not, therefore, to be doubted, but that Jenny found herself very sincerely welcome. — Sophia omitted nothing that might convince her that she was so ; — and as nothing more truly demonstrates the cordiality of the heart, than an open and undisguised behaviour, these ladies reciprocally related to each other all the little accidents that had befallen either of them since last they parted.

Among other things that Sophia communicated to her fair guest, she told her that her brother was about marrying, and at present was in London, prosecuting his

his addresses for that purpose, to a young lady of condition, ' which, said she, ' if he succeeds in, I shall not long be a ' resident in the country, as he then will ' have no farther occasion for my assist- ' ance, nor should I chuse to continue in ' the house with a sister-in-law.

' I sincerely wish him all the happiness he can hope for, replyed Jenny, ' not only as he is your brother, but for ' his own sake also, — since I believe ' there are few men who deserve more : ' —we are both extremely obliged to you ' my dear, returned the other, but I ' fear' —

She was going on with something, which it is likely would have let Jenny into the quality and character of the intended bride, but was interrupted by a servant, who came hastily into the room, and told her that his master was just alighted at the gate, out of a landau and six, and had brought a very fine lady home with him.

' Bless me, cried Sophia, in a great surprise, the thing we were speaking of ' is certainly completed; but come, con- ' tinued she, let us go down to receive ' them, and be convinced.'

In speaking these words she took Jenny by the hand, in order to do as she had said, but was prevented by the sight of her brother and the mistress of his affections, who had come laughing up, and were already on the top of the stair-case; on which she retired some paces back to give them room to enter.

This gentleman, whom I shall distinguish by the name of Rodophil, immediately presented Sophia to the lady, saying, ‘This, madam, is the sister I have often mentioned to you:’ they then saluted each other with a great deal of politeness, while he paid his compliments to Jenny; but had no sooner done so, than turning to Sophia, ‘I am come a little unexpectedly upon you, sister, said he; but, to make amends, have brought home a lady, who will be so good to take off your hands the trouble of managing my family.’

‘I am very ready to resign my place,’ reply’d she with a smile, to one who, ‘I doubt not, but will much better fit it; but sir, pursued she in the same gay air, I think you should have put it in my power to have given you the last cast of my office, in a more elegant

‘ gant manner, than I am now capable
‘ of doing in this sudden surprise.’

‘ Nay, as to that matter, child,’ cried the lady in a very familiar, and indeed, somewhat of a hoydenish tone, ‘ you have nothing to accuse him of on this account, for I assure you neither of us thought of being here to-night, two hours before we set out from London ; but I know not how it happen’d, but we were both in a frolicksome humour ; he swore he would have me, and I swore if he had, he should run away with me ; — the impudent thing took me at my word, — fent in a minute for a Landau and six, — thrust me into it, and hurried me away without any further preparation than just as you see.

‘ Then the ceremony is not yet perform’d,’ said Sophia ; ‘ No, reply’d her brother, but I hope to-morrow morning will put a final end to my suspense, and make me happy in my utmost wishes ; — What say you, madam, pursued he to the lady, — shall it not be so ? — What occasion has the man to ask any questions ! ’ — answered she, patting him on the cheek, ‘ you have got me into your possession here, and must even do with me what you will.’

Soon after this Sophia withdrew, to give the necessary orders for preparing supper, which, in spite of her being taken so unawares, was served up in a manner that shew'd there was little need of the apology had she made on the first entrance of her new guest.

Nothing was wanting to complete the elegance of the table, but a little more politeness of behaviour in the person, for whom chiefly such care had been taken in furnishing it; — but, tho' she was the daughter of a nobleman, and could not fail of having had an education suitable to her birth, yet the pride of blood, — the insolence of flatter'd beauty, and the vanity of imagining, that she could do nothing unbecoming in her, made her act and talk in so affected, and so odd a fashion, as greatly defaced all the charms she had received from nature.

‘ You are very ugly, Rodophil, would she cry ; I wonder what it is I like you for ; then rejoin'd with the same breath, ‘ well, you are a dear bewitching toad, ‘ however ;’ one moment she would push him from her, swearing she hated him, — the next pull him towards her, protesting he could not be too near ; — her discourse

to

to the ladies was also of the same piece : she told Sophia, she had a pair of fine eyes, but did not look as if she knew she had any such things in her head ; and laugh'd at Jenny, as having reason to accuse nature for not having endued her with the talent of elocution.

Jenny, indeed, spoke but little the whole evening ; but as her silence was occasioned only by the other's excess of volubility, the usual vivacity of her temper was rous'd by this reproach, and she reply'd, with some tartness, ' Madam, ' if Sophia and myself were half so conscious as your ladyship seems to be, of ' having every thing we said approv'd ' of, we should certainly be all speakers ' and no hearers, and consequently this ' gentleman here be in danger of losing ' one of his sences, if a man in love can ' be supposed to have any.'

The lady, in spite of all the assurance she was possess'd of, could not avoid appearing a little disconcerted at what Jenny had said ; — Rodophil perceiving it, thought himself obliged, as a lover, to take up the word, and turning to Jenny ; Madam, said he to her, ' the man who ' has the honour to be capable of distinguishing the perfections of that lady, ' must

‘ must certainly be supposed to have no
senses for any thing but her.’

Jenny made no other reply to this, than that she doubted not but his passion was worthy of the object that inspired it ; and, after a few hours past in a conversation not material enough to be repeated, Sophia conducted the mistress of her brother to an apartment she had caused to be got ready for her ; and, through respect to him, waited in the room till she had seen her into bed.

Jenny having always been a sharer with Sophia in the same bed, when they were together at the boarding-school, would not hear of sleeping apart from her during the time she stay'd in the country, not only to avoid giving any unnecessary trouble to the family, but also because she was willing to lose as little of her company as possible.

Though the night was pretty far advanced when the ladies went into their chamber, neither of them had the power to close their eyes without discovering to the other some part of their sentiments in relation to the intended bride.

That a young maid of quality should suffer

suffer herself to be conducted in so odd a manner by a gentleman to his country seat, and that she should behave towards him in so affected, and indeed so confident a fashion, in the presence of two persons of her own sex, whom she had never seen before, had something in it so new, and so strange to them, that they could not well find words to express their astonishment.

‘ It must certainly be an excess of love, said Jenny, that can oblige a man of Rodophil’s good understanding to bear with such extravagancies in the woman he makes choice of for a wife.’

‘ As for love,’ replied the other, ‘ I believe that is quite out of the question ; I think I may be pretty positive, from a thousand circumstances, that my brother is neither charmed with the beauties of her person, nor blind to the follies of her temper ; — but he imagines, — how rightly I cannot as yet take upon me to determine, that her fortune, her birth, and the interest of her family will compensate for all other deficiencies.’

Women, for the most part, are but too justly accused of being severe on the foibles

bles of each other ; and some will have it, that they even take a malicious pleasure in finding something to condemn ; but it was not by this propensity that either of these ladies were instigated ; — the one, who loved her brother extremely, was sorry and ashamed at having observ'd such errors in a woman who was to be his partner for life ; — and the other, more through good-nature than the contrary, was vexed when any opportunity for censure presented itself.

Rodophil, however, full of the thoughts of being a bridegroom, quitted his bed much sooner than he was accustomed to do, and went to a neighbouring clergyman, who having licences always ready by him, got one immediately fill'd up with the two parties names ; and as the thing was to be private, promis'd to bring a friend with him, who should officiate in giving the lady's hand.

Sophia also rose very early that morning, being willing, in spite of her dislike to this match, to do it all the honour in her power, and that the shortness of the time would admit her.

None of the family were sluggards on this occasion, — all appeared in their several

veral stations alert and cheerful ; sprightliness sat on every face, excepting that of the intended bride ; but never was there so strange, — so sudden a transformation in any one person, — she that had the evening before been so wildly gay and volatile, even to a ridiculous excess, was now become quite moped and stupid ; — twice had Sophia been in her chamber before she could prevail on her to leave it and come down stairs ; and when Rodophil accosted her with the usual salutation of the morning, and told her it was the happiest he had ever seen, she made no answer, nor scarce vouchsafed to look upon him.

On the sight of the clergyman and his friend, who came exactly at the time they were expected by Rodophil ; — ‘ What is all this for ? said she fullenly ; — I won’t be married : — Not married, madam, — cried Rodophil, ‘ you are not certainly in earnest : — Indeed, but I am, — so pray let the parson go about his business ; for he has none with me at this time.

‘ What is it you mean ? madam,’ — demanded Rodophil, so much confounded that he could scarce utter these few words : — ‘ I have told you, answered
‘ she,

‘ she, that I won’t be married, — at
‘ least at present ; — therefore send away
‘ the man.

‘ I am sorry, sir,’ said the reverend divine, — ‘ that you did not take care
‘ to be better acquainted with the lady’s
‘ mind before you gave us the trouble
‘ of waiting on you ;’ — and, with these
words, went hastily out of the room,
followed by the gentleman he had brought
with him, equally affronted as surpriz’d.

Rodophil went after them, to make the best apology he could for the caprice, as he then imagined it, of the lady’s humour: — Sophia and Jenny were all this time in such a consternation, that they could only look sometimes on the person who had occasioned it, and sometimes on each other, without being able to speak a single syllable.

Rodophil return’d, and with a countenance which testify’d the resentment of his heart, — ‘ Madam,’ said he to the lady, — ‘ what have I done to deserve
‘ that you should treat me in this manner ? — What motive could induce you
‘ to render me the jest of the whole
‘ country ?

‘ If you thought me unworthy of the honour I solicited,’ — pursued he, — ‘ wherefore did you encourage me to hope it? — assign at least some reason for so strange a reverse in your behaviour towards me.’ — These questions, and several others to the same purpose, being repeated over and over, she at last reply’d, — that she would satisfy him, but no body else.

Sophia, on hearing this, started immediately from her seat, crying: — ‘ Oh, madam, we will be no hindrance to the eclaircissement my brother has so much right to expect;’ — in speaking this she left them together, taking Jenny with her.

Her curiosity was, however, raised to a pitch too high not to inspire her with an eagerness to be one of the first at the explanation of this mystery, — it presently came into her head, that there was a closet which opened from the passage, and was divided from the room where Rodophil and the lady were but by a thin partition, and guessing her friend’s impatience by her own, they both went together, as softly as possible, into this little recess, where, putting their ears close

to the pannel of the wainscot, they could easily distinguish what discourse passed on the other side.

As in reaching this place, they were obliged to take a circuit through a gallery of a pretty large extent, they lost some part of what had been said, but arrived timely enough to be witnesses of the main point, and to which all that had pass'd before could have been only the prelude.

‘ Married !’ — they heard Rodophil cry, with a voice sonorous enough to have been audible at a much greater distance, — ‘ death and furies, — when, ‘ where, — to whom ! — You have no occasion, — replied the lady, to put ‘ yourself into this violent agitation, — ‘ I dare say I may be easily unmarried ‘ again.

‘ Confusion, rejoin’d Rodophil, — ‘ what trifling is here ! married, — and ‘ may be easily unmarried again ; — for ‘ heaven’s sake, madam, explain the meaning of all this, if there be really any meaning in what you say ?

‘ Haye a little patience,’ — replied she, — ‘ I will tell you every thing : — ‘ you

‘ you must know, that captain La Val,
‘ persuaded me one day to go with him
‘ to May-Fair Chapel, — where a man
‘ in a black coat read something over to
‘ us, — it was the marriage ceremony I
‘ think ; — for my part, I did nothing
‘ but laugh all the time, yet the creature
‘ has ever since taken it into his head to
‘ imagine I am his wife.

‘ Very likely, indeed, said Rodophil scornfully, — ‘ and what followed ? ’ —
‘ Nay, what signifies what followed, cried
‘ she, the business is to get this foolish
‘ marriage dissolved ; which I think may
‘ easily be done, especially as there were
‘ no witnesses, and we now heartily hate
‘ one another. — Were these always your
‘ sentiments ? — demanded Rodophil ; —
‘ No, answer’d she, — he pretended a
‘ furious passion for me, and I lik’d him
‘ well enough, — but he is now as indif-
‘ ferent as most other husbands, and I
‘ have never been able to endure him since
‘ I came acquainted with you ; — there-
‘ fore, my dear Rodophil, help me to
‘ get quite rid of him.

‘ As how pray ? — said he : — Oh,
‘ I have contrived the means, — answer’d
‘ she, — you must send him a challenge,
‘ I know he does not love fighting, tho’
he

‘ he has made two campaigns, and I believe will be glad to relinquish me rather than come to tilt-work ; — but if he should venture, you will certainly have the better ; for I am told he does not understand the sword.

‘ I am highly obliged to you, madam, reply’d he, with the extremest disdain, for the undertaking you would engage me in ; — but really it is not my humour to risque my own throat, or attempt cutting that of another man’s, in the hope of becoming master of his property ; and am so far from envying the good fortune of my rival, that I wish him all the happiness a man can enjoy with a lady of your consummate virtue and discretion.

‘ Ungrateful creature, cried she, bursting into tears, is this the love you have profess’d for me, or a recompence for the proofs you have receiv’d of mine ? — Oh, madam,’ — replied he, still more contemptuously, ‘ you will find I know how to set a just value on such love as yours, — the landau that brought us is not yet return’d, and is at your service to conduct you to your husband’s arms, or where-ever you think proper.’

On this she call'd him monster,— villain, and all the names that rage and disappointment could suggest; — but he, little regarding what she said, rung the bell for a servant, and order'd the landau should be immediatly brought. — Our fair eve-droppers thought this a proper cue for enterance, and came forth from their concealment: — ‘ Sister, said Rodophil, I leave you to tak? care of this lady, who seems a little disorder'd; — ‘ I am going out.

Sophia, after her brother had left the room, began to say some civil things, in order to moderate the distraction she appeared in; but she answer'd not a word; and, as soon as the landau was at the gate, flung herself into it without any farther ceremony: — but what effect her behaviour had on the minds of those she left behind, the reader will presently discover.



C H A P. III.

Is of still more importance than the former.

THOUGH Rodophil, as Sophia had told Jenny, was not posses'd of

any real passion for this capricious lady, and had been instigated merely by the prospect of advantage to make his addresses to her, yet was he so much chagrined at being exposed, by her folly, to the ridicule of the neighbourhood, from the thought it could not be kept a secret, that he went directly to the house of an intimate friend, and would not be prevailed upon to return to his own for a considerable time.

As for the two young ladies, the consternation they were in at what they had seen and heard, is not to be describ'd ; — nothing but the conviction of their own senses, could have made either of them believe it possible, that a person, such as had just now left them, could have acted in the manner she had done.

The discourse they had together, after she was gone, was suitable to the occasion. — 'I know, — said Sophia, — that there are some men who have so much vanity and assurance, that they will take no denial, nor quit their pretensions without some extraordinary method being taken to compel them to it ; but I can assure you this was not the case with my brother ; — I have very good reasons to believe she made him the first advances ; and am certain, that if she did

• did not, she at least highly encouraged
• his addresses.

• That you may not think, — con-
tinued she, — that I am excited to
speak in this fashion through the natu-
ral affection to my brother, I will shew
you a letter, which he happening to
drop, I took up, and never return'd ;
because I was unwilling to let him
know I had seen it.'

In speaking these words she took a paper out of her pocket, and put into Jenny's hands, which the young lady hastily opening found the contents as follow :

To * * * * * Esq ;

" **I** have had a thousand lovers, but ne-
ver found one so easily repuls'd ; —
if you had lov'd me with half that
violent passion you pretended, you
would have remember'd what the poet
makes Jupiter say of our sex,

I gave them but one tongue to form
denials,

And two fine eyes to yield a kind com-
pliance.

“ Mine must have been very unintelligible indeed, if they did not inform you that my heart was far from being displeased at the fine things you said to me ; — Were you then to take it for granted, that I did not like you because I told you so, and gallop immediately out of town, as if absolutely despairing ever to obtain me ? — Faint-hearted creature ! — I pity your want of spirit ; — a man of courage would have been more enflam’d by resistance, and never given over till he had gained his point.

“ I know this is going a great length, and may encourage you to boldnesses, which, perhaps, I should not be very ready to forgive ; but I have said it, and do not think it worth while to spoil another piece of paper with writing to you in a different manner, so you must put what construction you please upon words : if you venture to town again upon the receipt of this, it is possible you will have no reason to repent your journey ; but I promise nothing further, than that it depends entirely on yourself to continue in the good graces of

* * * *

“ P. S.

“ P. S. I have made an appointment
“ with some ladies to go to Vaux-
“ Hall the day after to-morrow;—
“ they will have all their pretty fel-
“ lows with them, and if you come
“ time enough, I should chuse ra-
“ ther that you should squire me
“ thither than any other man of
“ my acquaintance. — Adieu.

‘ Upon this summons, — said Sophia,
‘ — my brother went directly to London,
‘ and you may suppose met with no un-
‘ kind reception from the lady, by what
‘ you have been witness of.’

‘ Yes, my dear, — cried Jenny, — I
‘ have, indeed, been witness of much more
‘ than I could ever have imagined in
‘ woman, much less in any one who pre-
‘ tends to the least share of honour or
‘ reputation.’

This adventure, it is certain, had made a very extraordinary impression on the mind of that young beauty; — she had a strong discernment, and an uncommon quickness of apprehension, — she had easily discover'd, that the lady they were speaking of, tho' vain and affected to an excess, wanted not wit, but judgment,

and that the errors of her conduct, in regard to La Val and Rodophil, were not owing so much to her folly, as to the inconstancy of her nature.

‘ Who can be assur’d, — said she
‘ within herself, till experience convinces
‘ them, that they themselves may not be
‘ guilty of the same irregularity of hu-
‘ mour, tho’ their prudence, and the fears
‘ of censure may keep them from ex-
‘ posing the weakness of their resolution!
‘ — We all of us are liable to change in
‘ trifling matters, and frequently despise
‘ to-morrow what we lik’d to-day ; — I
‘ see no reason, therefore, that we have to
‘ depend on our own hearts in things of
‘ the greatest importance.’

Jenny could not, in spite of the gaiety of her temper, forbear falling into little reveries of this nature, whenever she consider’d herself as entering into a state, from which there is no relief but the grave ; or, what to a woman of any delicacy, is yet worse, — a divorcement.

She could not keep herself from uttering some part of her thoughts on this subject to Sophia ; ‘ Inconstancy, replied
‘ she, is certainly a very great weak-
‘ ness ; yet what security can be given by
‘ the

‘ the wisest of us all, that we never shall
‘ be guilty of it? — it is an involuntary
‘ error; the effect of a sudden object,
‘ that when we least think of it, strikes
‘ upon the senses, — confounds the un-
‘ derstanding, and leads the inclination
‘ astray, before people well know what
‘ they are doing.

‘ Since it is so, — said Jenny, — and
‘ may as well happen after marriage as
‘ before, I think it is best not to marry at
‘ all, as the consequences of such an ac-
‘ cident would then be terrible indeed.
‘ Then you would chuse to avoid a cer-
‘ tain good, — cried Sophia, laughing,
‘ — rather than run the risque of falling
‘ into an uncertain evil? — but I do not
‘ regard what you say on this head, —
‘ we may talk as we will, but when it
‘ comes to the point, we shall do just as
‘ nature prompts.’

Thus did the odd event of Rodophil's courtship furnish out both serious and pleasant matter of conversation for these two ladies while they continued together; — but Jenny, who had not intended her visit should be long, took her leave on the third day, and return'd to London, — where a second discovery fell in her way, which greatly corroborated those sen-

There are few milliners of more reputation in their way among the beau monde than mrs. Frill; — Jenny had been her customer ever since she had left her boarding-school, and happening now to go to her shop for some things she wanted, found her behind the counter very busy, and bustling among her shelves and band-boxes, — a thing very extraordinary with her, as she was pretty far advanced in years, — was infirm, and had always kept an extremely adroit shop-maid, who was used to take the trouble of the most part of the business off her hands.

‘ Bless me, — cried Jenny, — ’tis
‘ a kind of prodigy to see you below
‘ stairs, — especially at this time in the
‘ morning; — pray where is mrs. Becky,
‘ that you are obliged to fatigue your-
‘ self in this manner ?

‘ Ah, miss Jeffamy,’ — replyed she,
puffing and blowing like a pair of bellows that has lost its wind, — ‘ Becky
‘ has play’d the fool with herself, — she
‘ has left me, and is gone into keeping.
‘ Into keeping,’ — cried Jenny ! — ‘ I
‘ should

• should never have suspected it; — I
• thought mrs. Becky had been defended
• by the plainness of her person as well
• as by her virtue, from all attacks of
• that nature: — but pray who is the
• man? — I was of your opinion, —
• said mrs. Frill, — but sir J— *** has
• found charms in her, and she in him;
• — he has taken fine lodgings for her,
• and they are almost always together.'

She had no sooner mentioned the name of sir J— ***, than Jenny burst into exclamations; — she knew very well that he had loved, to the most romantic height the lady who was now his wife; — that he had not been marry'd to her more months than it had cost him years of courtship to obtain her; — that she was a person whose beauty, — accomplishments, — virtue and good nature rendered her every way deserving of all the affection he had profes'd for her; — and now to hear he had so early falsify'd his vows, seem'd a thing so strange, — so incredible, that she could scarce believe her ears, or that mrs. Frill was not mistaken in what she said; — she asked over and over if she was sure the thing was true, and desir'd her to repeat all the particulars she knew concerning this sur-

‘ You must know, madam, said she,
‘ that I had a very curious french cap-
‘ chin, — never was there a greater beau-
‘ ty of its kind, — it was wrought by a
‘ nun of quality to be dispos'd of for
‘ the benefit of the poor ; scarce a flower
‘ that grows but was represented in their
‘ proper colours, intermix'd with gold
‘ and silver ; — I shew'd it to such of
‘ my customers as I thought most likely
‘ to be the purchasers, — they all ad-
‘ mired it, but did not care to give the
‘ price, tho' nothing ever was so cheap ;
‘ for I asked no more than fifty guineas ;
‘ — but the truth is, most of them had
‘ lost a great deal of their money at play,
‘ and you know, madam, that makes ill
‘ for us trades-people. — I had kept it
‘ above a week, and fearing it would be
‘ blow'd upon, propos'd a raffle, and
‘ got ten ladies to subscribe five guineas
‘ a-piece ; but when the day came ap-
‘ pointed to decide to whose lot the prize
‘ should fall, one of them sent me word
‘ she had changed her mind, and could
‘ not come.

‘ This a little vex'd me, — continued
‘ she ; — but rather than lose all, was de-
‘ termined

‘ terminated to make up the deficiency myself, when luckily this very sir J — ***
 ‘ stept in ; — as he was a married man,
 ‘ I ventured to ask him if he would not
 ‘ try his fortune for a present to his lady ;
 ‘ — he readily agreed, and in fine won
 ‘ it ; — I offer’d to send it home, but he
 ‘ told me I need not give myself that
 ‘ trouble, for his man should call for it
 ‘ the next day, which Becky told me
 ‘ he did ; but you will find by the sequel
 ‘ that he intended no such thing.

‘ About a week after, as near as I can
 ‘ remember, went she on, — this au-
 ‘ dacious young hussy pretended to go
 ‘ on a visit to a relation, but came not
 ‘ home the whole night ; which very
 ‘ much surprised me, and as she never
 ‘ had been guilty of the like before, made
 ‘ me fear some accident had befallen her ;
 ‘ but the next morning I received a let-
 ‘ ter from her, which I will read to you.’

In speaking these words, she took a paper out of her pocket, and read these lines :

To Mrs. FRILL.

“ MADAM,
 “ I beg your pardon for quitting your
 “ service in so clandestine a manner ;
 “ but

“ but I had an offer which I did not
“ think proper to refuse ; — I have a
“ quarter’s wages in your hands, and that,
“ I hope, will make amends for my go-
“ ing without warning : — pray be so
“ good to send my box by the bearer.—
“ I am,

“ MADAM,

“ your humble servant,

“ to command,

“ REBECCA TRIP.

‘ I was very much amaz’d, as you may
‘ easily believe, — resumed she, — at
‘ the impertinence of the creature in
‘ writing to me in this manner; how-
‘ ever, had presence of mind enough to
‘ ask the porter from whence he brought
‘ the letter, and he readily told me from
‘ one madam Trip, in South-Audley-
‘ Street; — on which I presently guess’d
‘ her situation, though not the person
‘ who had occasioned this change in it.

‘ But I continued not long in this
‘ suspence, — pursued she, — one of
‘ the ladies, who had been so unfortu-
‘ nate to lose her five pieces at the raffle,
‘ told me she had met her in the mall,
‘ dress’d

• dress'd in a very rich brocade short sack
• and petticoat, and that very capuchin
• sir J— *** had won; and I soon after
• heard, by one who is acquainted with
• the person at whose house she lodges,
• that she passes there for a relation of
• that gentleman's, and that he visits her
• every day.'

Mrs. Frill had just finish'd this little narrative when a lady came into her shop, — after the usual compliment, — ' I have
• been just giving, — said mrs. Frill to
• her, — this young lady an account of
• the change of Becky's circumstances ;
• and I assure your ladyship have had much
• ado to make her believe the veracity
• of it. — I am sensible, — reply'd Jen-
• ny, — that things of this nature too
• frequently happen ; — but I confess,
• that to find a man who loved to that
• degree sir J— *** has done, should
• act in such a manner is very astonish-
• ing to me.

‘ For my part, — said the lady, — I
• see nothing astonishing in it, except
• his want of taste, — for as to his keep-
• ing a mistress, it could not be expected
• to be otherwise ; that woman is a fool
• who thinks to keep a pretty fellow to
• herself in a town like this ; — 'tis true
• his

‘ his wife is a very fine woman, — but
 ‘ he has had her, and variety has its
 ‘ charms for us all.

‘ In some things it may, madam, —
 ‘ answer’d Jenny, — yet I cannot help
 ‘ thinking that inconstancy, either in
 ‘ man or woman, argues a very weak
 ‘ mind. — Lord, miss, you talk like one
 ‘ that knows nothing of the world, —
 ‘ cry’d the other, — I have been married
 ‘ these three years, and am wife by expe-
 ‘ rience; — it is not in nature for two
 ‘ persons always to be pleasing to each
 ‘ other ; — but if you will not take my
 ‘ word for it, I hope you will believe Cœ-
 ‘ ley, who was certainly as great a judge
 ‘ of love as even Ovid himself.

The world’s a scene of changes, and to
 be —

Constant in nature were inconstancy ;
 For ’twere to break the laws herself
 has made ;

Our substances themselves do fleet and
 fade :

The most fix’d being still does move
 and fly,

Swift as the wings of time ’tis measur’d
 by :

To

To imagine then that love should never cease,

Love, which is but the ornament of these,

Were quite as senseless as to wonder why

Beauty and colour stay not when we die.

Not this authority, nor all the arguments the lady could bring, who possibly was herself a proof of what she urg'd, could make Jenny recede from her opinion, or give up the point, the dispute between them continued till other company coming in put an end to it.

Though, by the whole deportment of Jenny, there seem'd to be but little share of earth in her composition, yet had she her serious moments; — what she had seen at the house of Rodophil, and been told of at mrs. Frill's, came often into her mind ; and she began to fear, from these two instances, that inconstancy was a frailty to which human nature was but too liable, and the reflections she made upon it had no small influence on her future conduct towards Jemmy, to whom it is now high time we should return.

C H A P. IV.

Will probably occasion various conjectures on what is to come.

A Very small share of experience and observation may serve to inform us, that there is no passion of the soul which more easily wears off than that of grief for the death of friends ; and indeed it is highly reasonable that it should be so, — religion obliges us to a perfect resignation to the decrees of providence ; — philosophy teaches us that it is weak and unbecoming the dignity of our species to bewail woes, which in their very nature are irredeemable ; — and the laws of society forbid us to indulge any emotions that might enervate our abilities, and render us less useful to the community.

Whether any arguments, drawn from the above considerations, could claim a part in enabling Jeminy to recover his former vivacity, I will not take upon me to determine ; but, certain it is, that in a very

very short time nothing of the mourner, except the habit, was to be seen about him.

It would have been of mewhat strange, indeed, if a gentleman, not yet quite one and twenty, posses'd of a very plentiful estate, and master of accomplishments to recommend him to the best company, should have had any leisure for melancholy reflections in a town like London, so abounding with every thing that can entertain and raise pleasing sensations in a youthful heart.

In the midst of all the various amusements he gave into, his dear Jenny, however, was not forgot, — scarce a day past over without his visiting her once, if not more, in some one part of it; — they behaved to each other in the same fashion they had always been accustom'd to do, — quite open and free, without the least breach of innocence or modesty; — kind without any mixture of dissimulation, and obliging without taking any pains to be so.

Scarce are there any where to be found two persons whose dispositions so exactly tally'd; — both of them were gay and volatile almost to an excess, — both lov'd the

the pleasures of the town, yet never pursued them so far as to transgres the bounds of strict virtue in the one, nor honour in the other ; — both had an affluence of wit, and a great talent for ridicule ; and both had too much good nature and generosity to extend that propensity to the prejudice of any one : — in fine, they were what the poet says,

In all so much alike, each heart
Seem'd but the others counter part.

To the foregoing character of them might also have been added, that neither of them were posseſſ'd of any strong paf- fions ; and though the affection they had for each other, was truly tender and sincere, yet neither of them felt those impatiencies, — those anxieties, — those transporting hopes, — those distracting fears, — those causeleſſ jealousies, or any of those thousand restless ſenſations that usually perplex a mind devoted to an amorous flame ; — they were happy when they met, but not uneasy when they parted ; — he was not in the leaſt alarm'd on finding ſhe was frequently visited by ſome of the fineſt gentlemen in town ; nor was ſhe at all disconcerted when ſhe was told

told he was well received by ladies of the most distinguish'd characters.

I am well aware, that many of my readers will be apt to say, — people who could think and act in the manner I have describ'd, either had no charms for each other, or seem'd incapable of loving at all; — and I am ready to confess, that according to the receiv'd notions of love, there was a seeming inconsistency in this conduct, and had more the appearance of a cold indifference than the warm glow of mutual inclinations.

Yet that they did love each other is most certain, as will hereafter be demonstrated by proofs much more unquestionable than all those extravagancies ; — those raging flights commonly ; look'd upon as infallible tokens of the passion, but which, how fierce soever the fires they spring from may burn for a while, we see frequently extinguish of themselves, and leave nothing but the smoke behind.

All the formalities of a first and second mourning for the dead being over, every one now expected they should soon see the completion of a marriage they knew had been so long intended ; — Jemmy also had

had some thoughts of it himself, and began to consider on such things as were proper to be done previous to the solemnity.

On looking over his father's papers he had found marriage articles between him and Jenny, with a deed of settlement on her by way of dower, which the old gentleman had caused to be drawn up some time before his death; — these writings he now put into his pocket and carried them to her, in order for her approbation.

‘ What are these ? cry'd she, when he presented her with the packet : — They are what concern you as nearly as myself, — replied he, — therefore, I would have you examine the contents at some leisure hour, and let me know if you think there is any thing in them that requires alteration or amendment.

‘ They ought to be things of great consequence, indeed, by their bulk,’ — said she smiling, and beginning to unfold the parchment, — ‘ You know,’ — resumed he with the same gay air, — ‘ for what we are design'd by both our fathers ; — and I suppose mine, as being your guardian also, thought himself the

‘ most

most proper person to decide the terms
on which we should come together.

‘ I have no reason, — answered she, —
to suspect either his justice or good
will towards me; — however, I will
take the first opportunity of seeing what
he has done for me on this score ; ’ —
in speaking this she lock’d the writings
he had brought in an escrutore that was
plac’d just behind her ; — then turning
hastily to him, — ‘ but, my dear Jemmy,
— continued she, — you must excuse
me for this evening ; — you must know
I have promised some company to go to
Ranelagh, and I believe they are already
beginning to expect me. — It hap-
pens very luckily, — said he, — for
there are three or four young fellows
of us, who have promised to give some
ladies the music on the river to night,
— and I could not have stay’d above
three minutes longer with you ; for they
depend upon me to see the hands all
ready, — so, my dear Jenny, I will not
detain you ; — farewell. — Farewel
Jemmy,’ rejoined she, — and with these
words both ran down stairs together ; —
he went into one chair and she into another, to fulfil their several engagements.

The next day they saw each other again, as usual, — after some little chit chat on ordinary affairs, he asked her if she had found time to look over the writings he had brought the day before; — ‘ Yes,’ — answer’d she, ‘ I breakfasted on them this morning; — ‘ Well,’ — cried he, — ‘ what objections have you to make? — ‘ None at all,’ — reply’d she, — ‘ I rather think your father has made a better provision for me than my own would have desired or expected

‘ Then I suppose there is nothing left for us to do, — said he, — but sign and seal, and go together before a parson. — Some people may say so,’ — reply’d she ; — but for my part I am of a quite different opinion, and think there is a great deal for us both to do before we come to the words, — to have and to hold.

‘ I easily comprehend what you would be at, — resumed he laughing ; — new cloaths for ourselves and servants, — some addition to the equipage, — a more fashionable chariot, — another pair of horses perhaps. Hold, — hold,’ — cried she interrupting him, — ‘ I have no such stuff in my thoughts, I do assure you ;

‘ you ; — what I mean is infinitely more material than all you have mention’d ; — and that is, — the being certain within ourselves of never repenting the engagements we are about to enter into.

‘ Repenting, — said he, — there is no danger of that I believe ; — I will promise you to make as good a husband as I can, — and I am sure you will make a good wife.’ — ‘ That is all as chance directs, — answer’d she, — we may think perfectly well at one time, and act very ill at another ; in fine, my dear Jemmy, — continued she, — I think we ought to know a little more of the world and of ourselves before we enter into serious matrimony.

‘ Why faith, Jenny, — answer’d he, — I cannot help saying but that you are in the right ; — I should not much like, methinks, to be quite so soon the father of a family. — And I should hate to be called mamma, — rejoin’d she, — before I arrive at an age to write myself woman.

‘ I wonder, — pursued she, — how people can resolve to cut themselves off from

‘ from all the pleasures of life, just as
‘ they are beginning to have a relish for
‘ them ; — how should I regret being
‘ confin’d at home by my domestic af-
‘ fairs, while others of my sex and age
‘ were flaunting in the mall, or making
‘ one at the rout of a woman of quality ?
‘ — and how would it mortify you to
‘ hear the ladies cry disdainfully, Jemmy
‘ Jeffamy is a very pretty fellow ; — but
‘ he is married, — and then toss up their
‘ heads, and in contempt of you turn
‘ the doux yeux on the next man in com-
‘ pany, though perhaps he happens to be
‘ one of the most insignificant fops that
‘ the follies of the times ever fashioned,
‘ and without any one merit to recom-
‘ mend him but merely his having no
‘ wife ?’

Jenny, who had always somewhat amiably striking in her eyes and tone of voice, appeared at this instant so particularly brilliant, that Jemmy could not forbear catching her in his arms with the utmost rapture, — crying at the same time, — ‘ I shall little regard the contempt
‘ of all the women in the world, while
‘ blest with the kindness of my dear, —
‘ dear Jenny.

‘ And

‘ And I think too,’ — reply’d she, returning his embrace, and looking on him with a most enchanting softness, — ‘ that I could forgo all other joys of life for those of my dear Jemmy’s love ; yet after all, — continued she, — we may both of us be deceived in our own hearts ; — I have heard the wise say, that nothing is so difficult to acquire as the true knowledge of ourselves, — and who can tell what time and accidents may produce !’

Here Jemmy was beginning to make the most fervent protestations, that it was not in the power of fate itself to occasion the least alteration in his present sentiments on her account ; — and Jenny was half persuaded, by what she felt in her own breast, that an affection, grounded and habitual as theirs had been, was incapable of varying on either side ; — so that if this tender conversation had continued but a very little longer, it is highly probable they had agreed to put the finishing stroke to the work, their parents had labour’d for, by an immediate marriage.

Of this, however, there can be no positive assurance, as it was broke off by

some company coming in ;— but whether fortunately or unfortunately for the lovers, this interruption happen'd in so critical a moment, the reader, if he has patience to wait, will in the sequel of this history be inform'd.



CHAP. V.

Is somewhat more explicit than the former.

THE persons who had surprised our lovers in the midst of the most interesting discourse they ever yet had entertain'd each other with, were two young ladies of Jenny's intimate acquaintance ; — they had been driven out of the park by a shower of rain, and could not go home without calling on her, to communicate something which they thought would be equally diverting to her as it had been to themselves.

On seeing Jemmy with her, — ‘ We
• have catch'd you alone together, said
• one of them, and it is happy for you
• that you have been so, as nothing but
• the pleasure of each other's company,
• could

could have attoned for what you have lost by not being in the mall to-night.

‘ As how pray ? — demanded she. — Lady Fisk, — resumed the other, — Oh, such fleering, — such pointing, — such an universal titter as soon as ever she appear’d ! — Lady Fisk, — cried Jemmy, interrupting her, — I am afraid, madam, your intelligence is stale, — that lady has play’d over all her tricks long ago, and can do nothing new for us to laugh at.

‘ You are quite mistaken, I assure you, answer’d she ; — she has now, as Colly says, outdone all her usual outdoings, as you will be obliged to confess when you have heard the story.

‘ What, cried he, — can any thing go beyond her adventure in Covent-Garden, — where she went in men’s cloaths, — pick’d up a woman of the town, and was severely beaten by her on the discovery of her sex ?

‘ Or what happened to her at Bartholomew-Fair, — said Jenny, — where being a little too pert with some young apprentices, who had attack’d her as a lady of pleasure, a riot ensued, and she

‘ was glad to produce her seal with the coat of arms upon it, and a letter she had received that day from her lord, to prevent being lodg’d that night in the watch-house, and carried before the sitting alderman next morning.

‘ Neither of these exploits,’ — reply’d the lady that had spoke first, — comes up to what we have to tell you, or gave her half the mortification ; — it would be the first story in the world if one could but find out the beginning ; — but the misfortune is, that nothing but the catastrophe as yet is come to light.

‘ It is but half a story then, at best,’ said Jemmy laughing ; — but let us hear it however. — I should not have kept you so long in suspence my dear, if this thing here, — cried she, giving Jemmy a slap on the shoulder with her fan, — had not interrupted me ; — you must know, that some night last week lord and lady Fisk had a most terrible quarrel, — they were just going into bed, — she was undress’d all but her under petticoat ; — what she said or did to provoke him to such wrath Heaven knows ; but he push’d her out of the chamber, — drove her down stairs, and

and in that condition turn'd her into the street, charging the porter not to open the door on any account.

‘ Never was the pride and spirit of any lady so humbled as her’s, — continued this talkative lady ; — after finding that knocking and calling loud was to no effect, she condescended to put her mouth close to the key-hole of the door, and beseech the porter, in the most submissive terms, to let her in, though it were no farther than the hall ; while her remorseless lord looked through the window, and insulting her distress, told her it was a fine night, and that it was good for her ladyship’s health to be thus alfresco.

‘ After having had his fill of laughter at the miserable plight to which she was reduced, he consented to her admittance ; — she was no sooner within the doors than she flew up stairs ; — the dispute between them was renewed with almost the same vehemence as before ; — he loaded her with a thousand foul names ; — she, in return, called him toad, — devil, and every thing her passion could suggest ; — till having both rail’d themselves out of breath,

54 *The HISTORY of*
‘ they agreed to go into bed together,
‘ in order to finish the quarrel.

‘ But now comes the jest, — went she
‘ on, — How long a time do you think
‘ it took up to compose this difference ?
‘ why no less than three whole days
‘ and nights successively; during all which
‘ space the chamber door was never
‘ opened, but to take in some refresh-
‘ ment, which was placed for them in
‘ the next room: this evening was the
‘ first of their appearance since their re-
‘ surrection from the sepulchre of down;
‘ my lord received such congratulations
‘ upon it as made him glad to quit the
‘ park; but her ladyship, having some-
‘ what more assurance, stay’d till the
‘ change of weather obliged her, as well
‘ as ourselves, to take shelter in our
‘ chairs.

‘ I cannot help confessing, — said
‘ Jemmy, but that there is somewhat
‘ pretty extraordinary in this affair, and
‘ also that one of them has a greater
‘ share of complaisance than I suspected;
‘ since it is plain that which ever of them
‘ was in fault the other did equal penance.’

A good deal of pleasantry passed on
this adventure, during the whole time the
ladies

ladies stayed, which indeed was not very long ; — they had here opened their pacquet, and were upon the wing to carry it to those other of their acquaintance to whom they thought it might be equally new and agreeable.

The ladies had no sooner taken their leave, than Jenny began to animadvert, with more strength of reason than could have been expected from a person of her years, on the ridiculous fact they had been relating ; — ‘ You hear, Jemmy ’ said she, what unaccountable things ’ married people are sometimes guilty ’ of ; — instead of living together in a ’ mutual harmony, it seems methinks as ’ if they took a kind of pleasure in ma- ’ king each other wretched ; — and sure ’ they must do so, or they would not ’ thus expose themselves to the contempt ’ of the world, and become the jest even ’ of their own servants, who must neces- ’ sarily be the first witnesses of their folly,

‘ We ought not, however, replied he, ’ to lay on marriage the blame of all ’ those preposterous things we see acted ’ in that state, by persons we have been ’ speaking of ; — because long before ’ their enterance into it, both of them be- ’ haved in such a manner as to shew

‘ they were wholly govern’d by caprice, and not by that farcical passion which many people are possessed of, in a more or less degree, for making a great noise, and being talked of in the world, tho’ it is only for foibles, which one would think they should rather labour to conceal.

‘ But I must own, continued he, that I have sometimes been very much surprised at the little concord I have observed between persons whose principles, humours, and behaviour, in the general, would make one imagine them equally qualified to give each other perfect happiness.

‘ What you say is extremely just, cried Jenny, and I have often had occasion to make the same reflections ; — it follows then, that every one before they engage in marriage should be well vers’d in all those things, whatever they are, which constitute the happiness of it ; — this town is an ample school, and both of us have acquaintance enough in it to learn, from the mistakes of others, how to regulate our own conduct and passions, so as not to be laugh’d at ourselves for what we laugh at in them.

‘ Spoke

‘ Spoke like a philosophorefs, rejoined Jemmy ; and upon second thoughts I agree with you, that as every thing is ready for us, and we can marry when we will, it will be best for us both to stay till we have got some farther lights into the mysterious duties of the conjugal union.’

Jenny, who as yet had not the least inclination to enter into the serious road of matrimony, and would have been equally loath to have appear'd too refractory, if he had insisted on the performance of the covenant made between their fathers, was quite transported to find his sentiments so conformable to her own on this head ; but forbore testifying all the satisfaction she felt, for fear of making him call in question the sincerity of her affection for him.

She only told him, that she was certain it would be for their mutual interest to do as he had mentioned ; — on which he pursued his discourse in these terms :

‘ But, my dear Jenny, said he, as learning will not come of itself, and we should be equally perfect in the different parts we are to act together hereafter ; suppose we should resolve to

communicate to each other all the discoveries we are able to make, among the several families that either of us converse with; and also all the confidences which are reposed in us; — by this means I shall be acquainted with all the humours of your sex, and you no stranger to those of mine; so that neither of us will be at a loss to bear with the foibles which nature or custom may have implanted in the other; besides, added he, this is no more than practising before-hand one of those points, which, as I take it, is very essential to the happiness of both a husband and a wife, — which is the having no reserve.'

'I am charm'd with your project,' answer'd she; 'but then each of us must be sure to preserve an inviolable secrecy in what has been imparted by the other, which is another main essential towards conjugal felicity.'

Jemmy having assured her, that whatever she said to him on this account should be no more than talking to her own heart, they were beginning to divert themselves with the idea of the many whimsical passages they should have to recite to each other, when a footman brought

brought a letter to Jenny, — the contents whereof were as follow :

To miss JESSAMY.

Dear creature,

“ IF this finds you at home and dis-
 “ engaged, I flatter myself you will
 “ immediately comply with the request
 “ it contains ; — I am now alone, and
 “ in a situation which requires both
 “ consolation and advice, neither of
 “ which I can hope for more effectually
 “ than from the friendship with which
 “ you favour me ; — I would have wait-
 “ ed on you, but am prevented by rea-
 “ sons which you will be no stranger to
 “ on seeing me. I am,

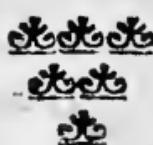
“ with the most perfect amity,
 “ my dear miss JESSAMY,
 “ yours, &c.

“ E. MARLOVE.

“ P. S. If I am unhappily deprived of
 “ your company to-night, I beg you
 “ will not fail coming as early as
 “ possible in the morning ; for I am
 “ all impatience to let you into the
 “ history of my misfortunes.”

‘ See here, — said she, giving the letter to Jemmy, — ‘ fortune already is likely to present me with something that may be worth your knowledge; — the lady who writes in this manner has honour and virtue; — she has been but four months married to a gentleman whom she preferred to a great number of other admirers, and who seems passionately fond of her; — you will not wonder that I am in as much haste to hear the occasion of her complaint, as she is to tell it me.’

She then ordered a chair to the door, and calling for her gloves and capuchin, hurried them on while he was reading; the motive which carry’d her away was too agreeable for him to offer to detain her; and they parted without farther ceremony than a kiss, and good night.



C H A P. VI.

Contains some things well worthy of being seriously attended to, by those especially for whose service they are chiefly inserted.

THOUGH Jenny had not doubted, by the lady's letter, but that something very extraordinary and perplexing had happen'd to her, yet she was far from expecting to find her in the condition she now did.

That half distracted fair one was lying extended on a couch, — her hair loose and hanging in wild disorder over her face, — her lovely eyes pouring forth tears, — all her features distorted with excess of passion, and every symptom of despair, grief, and rage about her.

Jenny was quite frightened; and indeed, who that had beheld her in this manner, but must have thought the most terrible accident imaginable had befallen her!
‘ Ah, my dear miss Jessamy, said she,
‘ as soon as she saw her enter how charitable is this visit to the most undone,
‘ forlorn

‘ forlorn, and miserable woman upon earth !

‘ Bless me, — cried Jenny, fearing herself near her, — what can have occasioned this sudden change in your late happy condition ? — Oh, I will tell you all, replied the other ; but when you shall hear how I have been treated by my ungrateful, — my perfidious husband, you will forswear marriage, and curse the whole race of false dissembling man.

‘ I sent for you, — continued she, — to make you the confidante of my resentment, as you have always been of my love ; for this unworthy man, whom from my slave is now become my tyrant ; and, instead of studying how to please me, has the insolence to attempt making me subservient to his will, and to contradict me even in things where every woman has a right to rule. — Could you ever have believed it, my dear miss Jessamy, — went she on, — the vain creature imagines I have love enough for him to be satisfied with whatever he does ?

‘ I thought, indeed, said Jenny, that both of you had love enough to be satisfied

tisfied with what the other did ; — But pray what may be the subject of the present dispute between you ? — Oh such a gross affront upon my understanding, my humour, — my every thing that is dear to woman-kind, reply'd mrs. Marlove, — But of what nature ? — again demanded her impatient friend ?

It was in vain she repeated the question over and over for several times successively, mrs. Marlove was too much overcome by her passion to be able to give any direct account of the occasion, and all that could be gather'd from her incoherent exclamations was, that a favourite servant of mr. Marlove's had quarrelled with her waiting-maid ; — that she had insisted on the man's being turn'd away, and he as strenuously that she should part with her maid ; — that very high words had rose on this occasion ; — that he had endeavoured to exert the authority of a husband, and she to maintain the respect and complaisance due to a wife ; and that after having absolutely refused to do as she desired, he had flung out of the house in very great discontent.

She was but just beginning to enter somewhat farther into the merits of the cause, when a servant put his head between

tween the door, and told mrs. Marlove, that the cloth was laid for supper, — and that his master was come home. —

‘ Well, and what of that, cried she hastily? Nothing, madam, said the man, only my master desires that your ladyship and the young lady will be pleased to walk down.—Tell him,’—reply’d she, with the utmost disdain in her voice and countenance, — ‘ that I am not pleased to do any thing that he desires; and that I will neither eat nor sleep with him while he keeps that fellow Jonathan in the house.’

On this, he said no more but withdrew, and mr. Marlove came up in a moment after; — his looks express’d the utmost discontent; — he saluted Jenny, however, with respect, and then turning to his wife: — ‘ I am surprised, my dear, cried he, that you should expose yourself in this manner: family disputes ought to be discuss’d in private; it is impertinent to trouble our friends with them, and ridiculous to make our servants the witnesses of them; — for Heaven’s sake, therefore, consider a little. —

‘ I shall consider nothing, said she interrupting him, but your unkindness and

and ingratitude ; — What, pursued she with vehemence, — to refuse me in so poor a trifle as the dismission of a servant ?

Trifles, madam, answer'd he very gravely, when insisted on too pereimp- torily, become things of consequence ; besides, you have often heard me say this man lived with my father ; — that when I went abroad he gave him to me as the choicest present he could make ; that he attended me in my travels through the greatest part of Europe ; and that I have experienced his love and fidelity to me in a thousand instances : — it would therefore be highly unjust and ungenerous in me to turn him off ; and I can look upon it as no less unreasonable in you to request it merely on the idle complaints and tittle-tattle of a chamber-maid.

That chamber-maid,' — said she in the most haughty tone, — while she belongs to me, is at least upon a level with your valet, — though in spite to me, I suppose, you have now raised him to your house-steward.'

Mr. Marlove grew very red at these words, and was about to have made some reply,

reply, which perhaps might have heighten'd the quarrel, when the person who had been the occasion of it enter'd the room.

He was a grave, well look'd man, and had a certain open honesty in his countenance, which answer'd to the character given of him by his master.

‘ Sir, said he to mr. Marlove, bowing in the most respectful manner,—I have never known in my whole life so real a grief as I now feel, in finding myself the unhappy cause of any disagreement between your honour and my lady ; — I therefore most humbly beseech you will be pleased to permit me to quit the house directly ; for it is not fit your honour's peace of mind should suffer any disturbance, or my lady the least uneasiness, even for a moment, on so worthless a subject as myself.

‘ How, Jonathan, demanded mr. Marlove, are you in such haste to leave my service, that you would go before I am provided with a proper person to supply your place ? — Oh, there is no reason for detaining him on that account, cried mrs. Marlove, my Abigail has a brother just now come out of place ;

place ; — by the character I have heard of him he will be extremely fit for you, and we can have him at a minute's warning.

‘ ‘Tis very likely,’ — reply'd he ; — then having paused a little on what his wife had said ; — ‘ Well, Jonathan, — pursued he, we will talk farther on this matter to-morrow ; but leave the room, and bid somebody send Abigail hither.’ Mrs. Marlove exulted within herself on hearing him speak in this manner, and pulling Jenny by the sleeve, —My dear, cried she to her in a low voice, ‘ I shall conquer this domineering husband at last.’

Abigail immediately obeying the summons, that had been sent for her ; Well, Abigail, said Mr. Marlove, with a half smile ; which she then took for an indication of his being in great good humour with her ; but, as it afterwards proved, was no more than a sarcastick sneer, ‘ I am told you have a brother perfectly qualified for my service.

‘ Yes, ‘ please your honour, answer'd she simpering ; and, though I say it, as clever a fellow as ever stepp'd in shoe-leather ; he can comb a wig to a charm,

‘ charm, and buckle too upon occasion ;
‘ he does every thing in taste, I assure
‘ your honour ; — besides, he is a spruce
‘ young man, and a thousand times fitter
‘ to attend your honour than the old for-
‘ mal creature you have now.’

‘ It may be so, said mr. Marlove ; but
‘ I have no business for him, nor have
‘ you any in my house longer than this
‘ night ; therefore pack up your trum-
‘ pery and be gone to-morrow morning :’
she was opening her mouth to speak,
but he prevented her by saying, in a stern
and resolute voice, ‘ No raparties, minx,
‘ I will have no incendiaries in my fa-
‘ mily ; — out of my sight this moment
‘ and come into it no more.’

Though scarce any creature was ever
endow’d with a greater share of confi-
dence than this wench, yet was she now
so terrified at the looks of her master,
that she durst not utter a single syllable
while in his presence, and contented her-
self with muttering all the way she went
down stairs, what she had not courage
to say loud enough to be heard.

But it is altogether impossible to de-
scribe the rage mrs. Marlove was in at
this last proof of her husband’s resolution ;
which

which was the more insupportable to her, as she had not above a moment or two before flattered herself with a belief that he was inclinable to conform to her desires.

She would have spoke, but excess of passion choak'd the passage of her words ; — she flew into her chamber and threw herself upon the bed, where she certainly would have fallen into a fit, if Jenny, who had immediately follow'd her, had not cut the laceings of her stays, in order to give her air.

On this she began to revive a little, and Abigail that instant coming up gave her a glass of cold water, which perfected the cure : — the first use she made of her received breath was to inveigh against the injustice, as she term'd it, of her husband : — Jenny was endeavouring to persuade her to more moderation, but was interrupted in the midst of what she was saying by Abigail.

‘ Nay, madam, cried that malapert huzzy, for that matter my lady has as much reason to be vex'd as I ; — for my part, I do not know what my master means by using me as he has done ; — he gives himself strange airs, methinks ;

‘ I am

‘ I am sure it is not like a gentleman to
‘ shew so little respect for a servant.’

These saucy reflections brought mrs. Marlove more to herself than all the assistance that had been given her ; angry as she was with her husband, she could not bear to hear him mentioned by such a creature in the manner she now did. Airs, cried she, — ‘ respect, — was ever any thing so ridiculously impudent ! sure, wench, thou hast forgot that the gentleman thou speakest so contemptuously of is my husband.

‘ No, madam, answered she, bridling up her head, ‘ I forget nothing that I ought to remember ; and I must say again, that it does not become him to treat either you or me so unhandsomely as he has done. — What, does the odious thing pretend to make parisons ?’ cried mrs. Marlove ; and, provoked beyond all patience at the insolence of her deportment, snatch’d a powder-box from off the dressing-table and threw it at her head, — saying, at the same time, ‘ Be gone this instant ; — I shall keep no such bold-face about me.

‘ Bold-

‘ Bold-face, madam, returned the audacious creature ; very pretty truly ; but don’t think I shall beg to stay ; there are other places to be had, and I do not value.’ — She would have ran farther on in the same strain, if the sudden appearance of her master had not stopp’d her mouth, and made her think proper to go out of the room.

Mr. Marlove being heartily ashamed that Jenny had been witness of this foolish affair, resolved to salve it up, if possible, before she went away ; and, to that end, came into his wife’s chamber ; chusing rather to recede a little from what he thought his just prerogative as a husband, than suffer her to depart with the notion of his having asserted it too far.

As he came into the room at one door Abigail was going out at the other ; — he easily perceived, by her countenance, that some brûlée had happened between her and her lady, which taking for a good omen of succeeding in his design, he approach’d mrs. Marlove ; and, with an air perfectly degagée and unembarrass’d, ‘ I hope, my dear, said he, you are by this time convinced, that your maid had a farther view in quarreling with Jonathan

‘ Jonathan than she pretended, and also
‘ how little she deserves you should es-
‘ pouse her cause.

‘ She has been impertinent, indeed,
‘ answer’d she ; but it is no wonder that
‘ she is so ; when a woman is ill treated
‘ by her husband, she can expect no other
‘ than to be so by her servants also ; and
‘ it is to you, — to you alone, that I
‘ either have, or shall hereafter be de-
‘ prived of the respect due to me from
‘ our domestics.

‘ Accuse me not, said he, of a thing
‘ so contrary to my nature ; — your me-
‘ rits, and my just sense of them, will
‘ always engage me to behave towards
‘ you, both in public and in private,
‘ with all the complaisance and tender-
‘ ness that man can pay or woman can
‘ expect.

‘ Then you would not contradict me
‘ in trifles, cried she, a little soften’d.
‘ I will contradict you in nothing, said
‘ he, that my reason will permit me to
‘ grant, or your own, on mature delibe-
‘ ration, induce you to desire. — As for
‘ the present dispute between us, conti-
‘ nued he, I only beg you will defer any
‘ farther speech of it till to-morrow; and if,
‘ in

in that time, you do not find cause to alter your opinion, I shall endeavour to accede to yours.

‘ A very fair proposal, indeed, sir, said Jenny smiling ; and, my dear mrs. Marlove, if you do not accept it I shall lay the whole blame of all the disagreements that may hereafter happen between you entirely on your ill-nature.

‘ That is a very severe inference, reply’d she ; however, to oblige you, I shall comply with mr. Marlove’s request.’ — ‘ I am glad to obtain it at any rate, cried he ; — and I hope we may now go down to supper, which has waited for us this half hour.’ — Mrs. Marlove said she did not care for eating, and desir’d they would excuse her absence ; but, by the intreaties of her husband, and some little pleasantries Jenny made use of on this occasion, she was at last prevailed upon, and they all went down together into the parlour.

Jenny kept an observant eye over both the husband and the wife all the time they were at table ; and, as she was happy in a penetration, which few of her sex, especially at her years, can boast of, easily perceived that though he behaved with a

politeness beyond what could have been expected after what had pass'd, and she seemed to have abated a great part of her late haughtiness and resentment, yet neither of them were sincerely inclined to submit to the will of the other, in any thing which was not entirely agreeable to their own.

The apologies they made to her, however, on the account of the unpleasing entertainment she had met with in this visit, with her obliging answers to them in return, and repeated good wishes for their future peace, engrossed a great part of their conversation during the whole time she stayed.

But the night being pretty far advanced, when supper was ended she took her leave of the half reconciled pair, and went home full of those reflections which, on the scene she had been witness of, must naturally have occur'd even to a person of a much less considerative disposition.



CHAP. VII.

Affords fresh matter for edification to those who stand in need of it, as well as entertainment to such who do not.

J ENNY had an infinity of good nature, and was extremely troubled at the disagreement she had seen between two persons whom she thought had been entirely happy in being united to each other: — the more she ruminated on the behaviour of mrs. Marlove, the more she found in it to condemn; but then she was also equally surprised to find so great a change in that of her husband; she had frequently been in their company while in their days of courtship; — she had seen him humour all the little whims and caprices which the vanity of flatter'd beauty had made her guilty of; — she had heard him praise even her very foibles, and seem charmed with what the rest of the world most blamed her for.

‘ Good God, cried she to herself, how
‘ strange a reverse does marriage bring !
‘ who that sees a man a husband would

‘ ever think he had been a lover ? —
‘ till she was a wife, he would not have
‘ presumed to argue with her on any
‘ point she took upon her to assert ; —
‘ he would not then have opposed
‘ his reason to any folly she committed ;
‘ ’tis true she has insisted on a thing,
‘ which he must have been both ungene-
‘ rous and weak to have comply’d with ;
‘ yet would he once not have dared to
‘ have contradicted her in much greater
‘ matters : — if she is proud, — impe-
‘ rious and vain, it is on his own too ob-
‘ sequiousness he ought to lay the blame.
‘ Oh, why will men endeavour to per-
‘ suade us we are goddesses, only to create
‘ themselves the pains of convincing us
‘ afterwards that we are but mortals !

‘ Yet after all, said she again, we know
‘ that the extravagant encomiums so la-
‘ vishly bestowed upon us before mar-
‘ riage, are mere words of course ; the
‘ homage, — the submissions paid us by
‘ the lover, all form and empty shew ;
‘ and, as they are put in practice only to
‘ sooth our vanity, ought not to deceive
‘ our understandings so far as to make
‘ us imagine we either deserve, or have a
‘ right to expect the continuance of them,
‘ when the motive that induced them is
‘ no more. — Marriage, as it removes all
‘ coyneſ

‘ coyness and reserve in the women, so it
‘ destroys all suspence in the men : — he
‘ is then in possession of his wishes, has
‘ done with hopes and fears ; and follici-
‘ tations of course must also cease.

‘ Stripp’d, therefore, of that imagi-
‘ nary authority with which we once
‘ flatter’d ourselves, it is certainly the
‘ busines of our sex to endeavour, by the
‘ most soft and obliging behaviour, to
‘ preserve and improve, if possible, the
‘ love of him, whom it is no longer
‘ in our power to awe by a contrary way
‘ of acting.

‘ A too great tenaciousness of our own
‘ merits, pursued she ; the pride of doing
‘ whatever we have a mind to, and of
‘ imposing the laws of our own will on
‘ that of the lover, may be submitted to
‘ while we are mistresses ; but will never
‘ be borne with when we are wives : —
‘ the men, consciouſ of that superiority,
‘ which custom and the matrimonial co-
‘ venant has given them, never fail to
‘ exert it, and opposition on our ſide is
‘ ſtruggling againſt the ſtream, and but
‘ ſerves to ſhew our weakneſs the more
‘ in the vain attempt.

‘ In my opinion, went ſhe ſtill on, the
E 3 ‘ way

‘ way to accomplish what we aim at, is
‘ not to urge it with too much vehem-
‘ mence, even in the most reasonable
‘ things, much less can we expect success
‘ when we insist on such as are in them-
‘ selves unjustifiable : — as in the case of
‘ mrs. Marlove ; and I much fear, that
‘ if many contests of this nature happen,
‘ they will by degrees weaken her hus-
‘ band’s affection for her ; perhaps, in
‘ time, utterly destroy it, and render her
‘ both unhappy and unpitied.’

In this manner did the sagacious Jenny reason within herself upon the cause in question ; and upon the whole, her judgment entirely acquitted mr. Marlove of all blame, and gave the verdict against his too assuming wife, for whose late behaviour she could find no excuse, except her extreme youth, and inexperience of the temper of mankind, that lady being but sixteen, which was two years short of the age she had attain’d herself.

This naturally led her into reflections on the folly of two persons uniting themselves together by the solemn ties of marriage, without having well consider’d the duties of the state they were about to enter into, and confirm’d her in the resolution she before had taken of living
‘ single,

single, till she was as well assured, as human reason could make her, that both herself and the man who was to be her husband, were equally qualified to render each other truly happy.

She longed, however, to see Jemmy, that she might relate this story to him, and hear his sentiments upon it; but she saw him not all the next day, which a little surprised her, as four and twenty hours seldom passed over without his making her one visit, if no more; the accident, which now occasioned his absence so much longer than usual, was, indeed, of a pretty particular nature; — it was this:

On his coming home the night before he found a letter that had been left for him, requesting his company at an entertainment to be given the next day on a very extraordinary occasion, by a gentleman who had been an intimate acquaintance of his father's; — the invitation was too pressing for him to refuse complying with it, which otherwise he would gladly have done, as he expected not to find any guests there suitable to his age or humour.

He found himself, however, agreeably deceived in this conjecture, and was surprised,

prised, on his entrance into a spacious room, to see it fill'd with a very brilliant company of both sexes, who being assembled in order to celebrate the most joyous circumstance that can happen in private life, came with a sincere resolution of contributing every thing in the power of each to do honour to the feast prepared for them.

But not to keep the reader in suspense, the person who made this invitation was a gentleman of birth and fortune; — he was married in his youth to a lady of celebrated beauty, and every way his equal; but, through a too great love of pleasure on his side, and some errors in conduct, though without any breach of virtue on her's, they had been separated for fourteen years, without the least probability of being reconciled, and even less of their ever living together again, as all the interposition of their friends for that purpose, during so long a space of time, had been in vain, and was, at last, entirely given over: — the unhoped for event, notwithstanding, came to pass; — both parties were alike touch'd with a just sensibility of their former mistakes, and return'd to the embraces of each other, with more ardency of affection than

than that with which they had first met in marriage.

There is certainly nothing which so much demonstrates the sincerity of our reformation, as a free confession that we have been in the wrong. — ‘ I was, said the gentleman, in possession of a treasure before I had attain’d to an age capable of knowing the true value of it ; I wore it as an idiot does a diamond, careless on my arm, and liable to be snatch’d from me by the first person who admired its lustre ; — but heaven has preserved it as a blessing for my riper judgment.’

He concluded these words with kissing his lady’s hand, and then went on, ‘ I was, continued he, one of those thoughtless wretches, which the poet, doubtless, had in his eye when he wrote these lines :

‘ Fictitious joys allur’d my dazzled
‘ sens’
‘ And led them in the mystic maze a
‘ while ;
‘ Beguil’d with empty air, my restless
‘ heart
‘ Still after some untasted pleasure
‘ roam’d ;

- ‘ But now the wanderer seeks his peaceful home,
- ‘ And there finds all it vainly sought abroad.

‘ I cannot suffer you, my dear,’ said the lady, with a most becoming smile, ‘ to take upon yourself the whole blame of that unhappy disagreement, which has so long divided us; — I also have had my share of guilt, though in a different way from yours; — if you have been too gay, I have been too inconsiderate; — I have endeavoured not to make home delightful to you; — I rather, by a thousand impertinencies and follies, render’d my presence tiresome; I had no idea of the duties of my place, but behaved, when set at the head of a family, as I had done in the nursery, and expected to be humour’d in the same manner.’

Thus did this lately re-united pair equally condemn themselves for the mis-carriages of their past conduct; but, while they were speaking, there were not a few in company of both sexes, who hung down their heads, as conscious of not being wholly free from the errors they heard mentioned.

‘ Jemmy,

Jemmy, according to the agreement made between him and Jenny, kept an observant eye on all those whom he found were married, and easily perceived, by the looks which one of them in particular frequently gave his wife, that they were far from living together in a perfect harmony ; tho', as he had never seen either of them before, and was wholly unacquainted with their circumstances, conditions, or humours, it was utterly impossible for him to guess from what latent cause the discord he discover'd proceeded ; — but as it was the husband who seem'd most dissatisfied, he concluded, without knowing any thing of the matter, that it must be the wife who was to blame.

The men are apt to be too partial to one another on this score : — in the little time that Jemmy had at present for reflection, these lines of mr. Dryden's came directly into his head :

Few know what cares a husband's
peace destroys,
His real griefs and his dissembled joys.

It is altogether impracticable for married people, when so unhappy as to have

any real or imagined cause of complaint against each other, to keep the uneasiness they labour under from being visible to the world ; — however perfect, as to other things they may be in the art of dissimulation, in this, spite of their utmost endeavours, the sentiments of their hearts will break out ; — every look, — every gesture, betrays the inward pangs they feel ; — which shews, that of all circumstances of discontent, those of marriage are with the most difficulty sustain'd.

Jemmy was afterwards informed, that the last mention'd gentleman was one of the many whom, it is not in the power of fortune to make happy ; — that he took a kind of gloomy pleasure in creating to himself ideal ills, and then started at the apparition, which nothing but his own productive fancy had conjured up.

His wife was far from being a beauty ; and as to her person, she had received no more from nature than would just serve to make her pass for not disagreeable ; as to her behaviour, it was affable and chearful, but withal extremely modest ; for as she never affected a too great reserve, so she was equally free from all that had the appearance of levity ; but neither the little power her eyes had of captivating,

captivating, nor the prudence of her carriage, could hinder him from imagining every man that looked upon her had a dishonourable design towards her, and also that she had no disinclination to encourage it.

The whole of the entertainment concluded with a kind of ball ; and as there were more gentlemen than ladies present, the cloudy husband, with two others, retired to one corner of the room, and sat drinking to the healths of those that danced.

It was by mere accident, and without the least design on either side, that Jemmy had for his partner the wife of this suspicious gentleman ; — but it was pleasant enough for those who sat near him to observe with what eagerness his eyes pursued each motion in them, which the regulation of the dance required, — how his colour changed, — how his lips trembled, whenever that couple set to each other, or turn'd hands ; it was in vain they fill'd his glass and reminded him of the neglected toast, though it were even that of the royal family ; — he thought of nothing but his wife, and seeing her, as he imagined, encouraging the dumb courtship of a person who would invade

invade his rights, he had no longer patience, and the second dance was but just led up when he rose from his seat and said he must go home, for he had letters of importance to write, which till that moment he had forgot.

This put all into disorder ; — the gentleman who had made the invitation would fain have persuaded him to stay, but was silenced by the other, urging the necessity of his departure : — the lady then told him, with a great deal of politeness, that if they must be so unhappy to be deprived of his company, she hoped they should not also lose mrs. ——, who she supposed had no letters to write.

‘ No, — no madam, replied he, with very great emotion, my wife may stay if she thinks proper ; I do not want her, not I :’ — she was advancing to take her leave while he was speaking, nor would suffer herself to be prevailed upon, by all the lady could say, to stay behind her husband ; but it was easy for any one to see her inclinations took the contrary part, and denied herself the satisfaction such good company afforded, merely through the apprehensions of paying too dearly for it when she came home.

Thus

Thus industriously do some people labour to bring on what most they would avoid; — if this lady had been possess'd of a little more beauty, or to speak more justly, had she been mistress of a less share of discretion, there were, doubtless, some in company who would have been excited, by the jealousy of her husband, to have attempted that chastity he took such ridiculous measures to preserve.

As it was, however, the behaviour of the husband served to render him contemptible in the eyes of every one, and that of the wife to give her charms, which otherwise could not have been remark'd in her.

The sarcasms pass'd on this unhappy self-tormented gentleman would be too tedious to repeat, yet were much shorter, than they otherwise would have been, if the music's sprightly sounds had not reminded the company, that their feet at that time demanded more employment than their tongues.

It is not to be doubted but that on going home every one made their several remarks on what they had seen, but the mind of Jemmy was affected by it in a particular

particular manner, as he considered all that had presented itself to him that day, concurred to make up one great instructive lesson for himself.

C H A P. VIII.

Will occasion various speculations in the inquisitive reader.

WHEN our pair of lovers came to relate mutually to each other the foregoing narratives, they were both of opinion, that most of the disagreements that happened in marriage were occasion'd chiefly by the parties entering into that state too early, and too precipitately.

‘ If your friends, who now so much rejoice in being reunited, said Jenny, had taken care before marriage to attain those qualifications necessary for the performance of the duties required from their respective stations, they would probably never have fallen into those errors which caused their separation.

‘ Nor would their guest, continued she, be so unreasonably jealous of his wife’s conduct, if, previously to his becoming

becoming a husband, he had made himself well acquainted with her principles and disposition, and also equally so with his own humour.

‘ Nor would mrs. Marlove, replied Jemmy, if she had at all studied the temper of mankind, have been so vain as to expect the same submission from her husband as she received from him while her lover ; — much less have pretended to contradict him in things where it was not her province to interfere.

‘ Right, resumed she smiling, and you may now easily perceive the advantage it is to us not to hurry ourselves into wedlock, as too many people do, without reflecting what they are about, or being any way prepared to make the noose set easy.

‘ Then you persist in your resolution, rejoined Jemmy, of not being married yet a while ? to which she answering in the affirmative, and repeating the arguments she had before made use of in her vindication, he readily enough yielded to the justice of her reasons ; but that he did so was not so much owing to his discretion, as to another motive, which, though

though Jenny was ignorant of, it is not convenient that the reader should be so.

He had, in reality, met with some adventures of late which had given him too high a relish for the modish pleasures of the town for him to be able to quit them without reluctance, and which he had too much good sense not to know it would ill become him to indulge the pursuit of after he should be a married man.

Among the many places of diversion this great and luxurious town abounds with, lady Racket's assembly has been always look'd upon as the most general rendezvous for all the young and gay of both sexes.

Jemmy went frequently thither, and it happening that one evening the company playing very high, he was stripp'd of all the money and bank notes he had about him, which amounted to a considerable sum.

A little vex'd at his ill fortune he was retiring to a window, in order to compose himself, when the sound of a female voice very loud made him turn his head; he found it proceeded from Liberia, —
the

the celebrated Liberia, who having been playing at another table, had lost all her money, and had not temper to bear it.

‘ Was ever such cursed luck ! ’ cried she, starting up from her seat, ‘ I have not a single stake left ; — I have a good mind to make a solemn vow never to touch a card again.’ ‘ Patience, — atience, madam,’ — said Jemmy, advancing towards her ; — ‘ behold in me your brother in affliction ; these things will happen if we depend on the blind god- defs.’ — ‘ Have you lost all your money too ? ’ demanded she. Every doit, upon my soul, reply’d he ; so neither of us have any thing to do at present but to observe the fate of others.

‘ That would be an insipid way of killing time indeed, said she ; suppose you and I should set down to picquet, as we both are in the same condition, and can play with nobody else.’ — ‘ With all my heart, answered he, and stake honour against honour.’ — ‘ Perhaps that would be just nothing at all, cried she laughing. — I dare trust yours, rejoined he, if you will put the same confidence in mine.

‘ It would be ungenerous in me, reply’d she, not to return good opinion with good opinion; — but I think it is against the rules of gaming to play merely upon credit; — I will set my solitaire against that ring you have upon your finger.’

Jemmy had a great regard for this ring, not so much for the intrinsic value of it, though it was a fine diamond, as because it had been his father’s, who had given it to him some little time before he died: a moment’s recollection, however, served to make him know what he should do on this occasion; and he reply’d with great alertness, — ‘ Madam, I heartily agree to your proposal, with this proviso, that which ever of us is the winner, the stakes may be redeemable; — nor would it be fair in me to play with you on any other terms, as your solitaire is worth much more than my ring.

‘ Well, it shall be just as you would have it, reply’d she, twenty guineas shall be the event;’ — to which Jemmy agreeing, they sat down to a table which some company had just quitted; she pluck’d off her solitaire and he his ring, both the pledges were laid under the candlestick, and to play they went; — fortune, for several deals, seem’d dubious in

in whose favour she should decide ; but at length, after a hard fought battle, gave the victory to Jemmy.

‘ Was ever any thing so unlucky, said she, but I won’t give out, come, sir,’ continued she, shuffling the cards, ‘ twenty guineas more ; — or, if you please, ‘ thirty ; I shall then either be indebted ‘ fifty pieces to you, or have a claim on ‘ you for ten.’

Jemmy would fain have persuaded her to give over, but she would hear nothing he said on that score ; they cut the cards, poor Liberia, had the advantage of the deal, but was nothing a gainer by it, she had not even the satisfaction of a second struggle ; he immediately produced point — queen — and quatorze, without the trouble of playing a card.

‘ Confusion, cried she, bursting into tears, sure all the stars in the firmament have conspired this night against me !’ with these words she rose from table ; ‘ you have won, sir, pursued she, I know your directions, and will send the money in a day or two.’ She stayed not to hear what answer he would make, but flew out of the room with an air which denoted the utmost agitation of mind.

Liberia

Liberia had a great share of beauty, and Jemmy of good nature ; the distress she appeared in render'd her more lovely in his eyes than ever he had thought her ; his heart was that instant fill'd with emotions she had never before inspired it with ; — he followed, with the solitaire in his hand, and overtook her as she was passing through a room in order to reach the stair-cafe.

‘ Madam, said he to her, I cannot suffer
‘ that beautiful neck should be without
‘ so becoming an ornament, even for the
‘ smallest space of time ; I beseech you
‘ therefore, to resume this jewel, and also
‘ to assure yourself, that I dare take your
‘ word of honour as a sufficient security
‘ for a much greater sum than the trifle
‘ to which fortune has just now entitled
‘ me.

‘ No mr. Jessamy, answer'd she, that
‘ must not be, my lord is at present out
‘ of town, or if he were at home, I
‘ should not chuse to acquaint him with
‘ my losses at play ; — it is also impro-
‘ per for me to let the steward know any
‘ thing of the matter ; — it may be lon-
‘ ger than I could wish, or you perhaps
‘ expect, before I can, with any conve-
‘ nience,

‘ nience, discharge my obligation ; — so
‘ desire you will say no more, but keep
‘ the pledge till in my power to redeem
‘ it.’

All this was delivered in a voice so broken and hesitating, that Jemmy easily perceived by that, as well as by her looks, that it was with the utmost reluctance she refused the offer he had made, though her pride would not suffer her to accept it.

Something, which the reader will presently discover, coming that moment into his head, ‘ Since you insist, madam,’ said he, looking tenderly on her, ‘ and will ‘ needs force me to retain something of ‘ yours in my hands, consent, at least, ‘ that I exchange this mortgage for some ‘ other, if you will permit me to wait ‘ on you home, and look over your ‘ trinkets, I shall certainly find somewhat ‘ that will please me as well, and you ‘ can much better spare.

‘ I must not reject every thing you ‘ propose,’ replied she with a half smile, and then received the solitaire from him, which he assisted her in replacing, and while he was doing so gave her neck a gentle pressure, which she was not so insensible

There needed no more, — she gave him her hand to lead her down stairs, — her own chair waiting in the hall she went into it, and he follow'd in a hackney.

On coming to her house, she conducted him directly to her dressing room, where her woman being sitting at work, she bad her set a bottle of wine on the table, and retire till call'd for, — saying she had some accounts to settle with that gentleman.

This attendant was no sooner withdrawn than the reduced Liberia opened a little cabinet, which contain'd her Jewels. — ‘ Here, sir, cried she, are all ‘ the toys of this nature I am mistress ‘ of.’ — Jemmy scarce vouchsafeing a glance towards them, reply'd, — ‘ They ‘ must be fine, indeed, since owned by ‘ you, and must dazzle the sight of a ‘ man less knowing than I pretend to be ‘ in what is truly valuable; — but what ‘ is all the lustre they can boast while ‘ you are in presence? — How faint are ‘ the rays of the diamond to those your ‘ eyes send forth! — how insipid, — how ‘ weak is the glow of the ruby to these ‘ lips!

He began this speech with looking intently on her face, and finding nothing there to discourage his attempt, concluded it with throwing his arms about her waist, and giving her more lively indications of his sense of the perfections he had praised, than all in the power of language could have done.

They were alone, — a couch was in the room, she resisted not his encroachments, and one moment gave him the full possession of a happiness, which not half an hour before he had not even the least thought of ever soliciting.

Scarce had he time to express the transports of his gratitude for the un-hoped favours he had received, when Liberia, hearing the sound of voices on the stairs, rang her bell to know who was there ; on which her woman immediately came in, and told her that two ladies, who had been at lady Racket's assembly, and seeing her leave the company so abruptly, had call'd to know the occasion, fearing she might be indisposed.

‘ Lord, how impertinent is some people’s friendship ! cried Liberia ; — Why did you not tell them I was well, but

‘ very busy?’ ‘ I did so, madam, reply’d
 ‘ the other, and that you was shut up in
 ‘ your closet, writing letters ; but they in-
 ‘ sisted on seeing you, — ran up stairs in
 ‘ spite of me, and are now in the draw-
 ‘ ing room.’

‘ Well, — there is no remedy for these
 ‘ things, said she, I must go to them, or
 ‘ they will brust in upon me here ; you’ll
 ‘ excuse me, mr. Jessamy, — it is highly
 ‘ improper you should be seen ; — then
 ‘ turning to her woman ; shew him down
 ‘ the back stairs, added she, with as little
 ‘ noise as you can.’

She said no more, but went out of the room to receive her company, and Jemmy suffer’d himself to be conducted by her woman in the manner she had order’d.



CHAP. IX.

Has something in it of the marvellous.

THOUGH Jemmy had as small a share of vanity in his composition as any man that ever lived, yet it would have been a thing almost supernatural in him, if an adventure, such as he had just now met with, had not elated a heart so unexperienced

unexperienced as was his ;— Liberia was a woman of distinction, young, beautiful, and had every requisite to render her the delight and admiration of mankind ; to what else then, but a peculiar liking of his person and behaviour, could it seem possible to him to impute the concessions she had made ?

It is not to be understood, however, that the pleasing sensation he felt at this event proceeded from the gratification of any passion he had entertain'd for the lady, who so highly had obliged him ;— no, on the contrary, his affection for Jenny was a sure defence from the attacks of any other charms ; he had often seen Liberia, had thought her a fine woman, as every one did ; but he had never been touched with the least spark of an amorous desire on her account ; nor, on looking on her, had even consider'd the difference of sexes : but though what had happened between them was merely casual on his side ; yet he could not help believing, that it was a previous inclination on her's which alone could have excited her to act in the manner she had done.

The hurry in which they were compell'd to part, took from him all opportunity of testifying that desire of continu-

ing a correspondence with her, which otherwise, he thought, she would have had reason to expect ; and which even gratitude, politeness, and even common good nature, would have exacted from him.

He therefore went the next morning to her house, certain in his mind of meeting with a reception suitable to the kindness she had given him such proofs of the night before ; — she was just dress'd, and going to court ; but, on his sending up his name, gave orders for his admittance ; the servant who introduced him immediately withdrawing, he approach'd to salute her with the air and freedom of a favour'd lover.

But how unspeakable was his surprise, when, going to take her in his arms, she started back, and with a countenance all awful and austere, ‘ Hold off, sir, said ‘ she, this is a familiarity neither becom- ‘ ing you to take, nor me to grant :’ the confuson he was in not permitting him to make any immediate reply ; ‘ I do ‘ not now, continued she, owe fifty pieces ‘ to you.

‘ No, madam,’ reply'd he, a little re-
covering himself ; ‘ but you owe me a
‘ heart

‘ heart in return for that I have devoted
‘ to you.’ — ‘ I have nothing to do with
‘ your heart, resum’d she ; and as for mine
‘ it is my husband’s due.’ — ‘ If you really
‘ think so, madam, cried he, wherefore
‘ did you flatter me last night with ha-
‘ ving so large a part ? ’ — ‘ What happen-
‘ ed last night, said she, was merely ac-
‘ cidental ; I had lost all my money, and
‘ the debts we contract at play, you
‘ know, are debts of honour ; but where
‘ my own is not concern’d, be assured I
‘ shall always have a just regard for that
‘ of my husband’s.’

In spite of the consternation Jemmy was in, he could not refrain smiling at the distinction this lady made, and with an air, which had something of contem-
tuous in it, ‘ I thought madam, said he,
‘ that the honour of the husband and the
‘ wife had always been inseparable.

‘ They are so, I allow, answer’d she ;
‘ but necessity sometimes compels a wo-
‘ man to do what otherwise she would
‘ not be guilty of ; therefore I beg you
‘ will think no more of what has hap-
‘ pened, it was a foolish affair indeed ;
‘ but as it cannot be recall’d, should be
‘ forgotten.’

He was about to make some reply, which it is likely would not have been very pleasing to her, but she went to the door and call'd to know if the chariot was ready, and being told it was, ‘ Adieu, ‘ mr. Jeffamy, said she, I am obliged to ‘ attend the princess ; I hope whenever ‘ we meet, you will always treat me as ‘ the wife of lord ***.’

She had no sooner spoke these words than she shot like lightning out of the room, leaving Jemmy in a situation of mind not easy to be described, or even conceived, by any one who has not been under the same circumstances.

It was not that his pride was so much mortifyed at this unexpected rebuff, as his comprehension was confounded at its being given ; the more he endeavoured to fathom the mysterious meaning, the more he was absorb'd in wonder ; in fine, he knew not what to think, nor by what motive to account for a proceeding so strange, so contradictory to the very nature of the sex.

The first shock of any thing is very difficult to be conceal'd ; — the spirits, when suddenly alarm'd, are in a hurry for a while,

a while, then sink into as extreme a languor. — Jemmy dined that day at a tavern, by an appointment he had made with some gentlemen of his acquaintance ; but neither their conversation, nor the glass which went briskly about, had the power of dissipating his chagrin, or driving Liberia entirely from his thoughts.

The least air of seriousness in persons of an extraordinary vivacity cannot fail of being taken notice of ; — Jemmy was looked upon as the life and soul of all the company he went into ; and now to find him, instead of inspiring others with good humour, stand in need of being inspired himself, made every one desirous of knowing what had occasioned this sudden transformation ; but the affair was not a thing proper to be talked on, and he evaded giving any direct answer to the questions put to him on this head.

He did not long, however, preserve a taciturnity on this occasion, which was pretty painful to him ; — the company being broke up, and only one gentleman, with whom he had a greater intimacy than with any of the others, staying behind, he could not forbear speaking of what so much engross'd his thoughts ; in fine, he related to him the whole his-

But how strangely was he disappointed, when instead of hearing his friend express some astonishment, as he expected he would have done, at an event so new and uncommon, he only burst into such a violent fit of laughter as hindered him from speaking for some moments.

‘ What, cried Jemmy, I suppose the
‘ story I have been telling you is too ro-
‘ mantic to be believed, and you suspect
‘ I have been endeavouring all this while
‘ to impose upon your understanding an
‘ invention of my own, in the room of
‘ a real fact ?

‘ No, upon my word, reply’d the o-
‘ ther, I am so confident of the truth of
‘ all you have repeated, that upon occa-
‘ sion I would be your voucher for every
‘ particular of it ; — but what made me
‘ so merry was, the great care you have
‘ taken in keeping the name of this fine
‘ lady a secret ; — What will you say
‘ now, continued he, if I tell you at once
‘ that I am very certain no woman but
‘ Liberia is capable of behaving in the
‘ manner you have describ’d ?

Liberia herself had scarce given Jemmy more surprise than his friend did in mentioning her as the person they were talking of. ‘ Liberia,’ cried he, ‘ What have I said to raise such a conjecture in you?’

‘ Nothing, upon my soul, answer’d the other; you have nothing to accuse yourself of in this point, and might have told the story to five hundred people without any one of them being able to guess at the woman; — it is not my penetration but my experience, has let me into the secret of this matter; — and to make you master of an other, I must tell you that I have been beforehand with you.

Jemmy, not perfectly comprehending these words, asked what he meant? ‘ It happen’d, said he, the other day, that one evening I play’d at the same table with this extraordinary lady; — I swept the stakes, and she being out of cash, we went on upon credit; — fortune still was on my side; — she lost a considerable sum to me, which I had the same equivalent for that she bestow’d on you; and when I waited on her some days afterwards, in order to repeat my devoirs, received also just the same re-

‘ pulse you did, and found that it was
her humour ; — no play — no love.

‘ Then neither of us, cried Jemmy,
are oblig’d for the favours we have re-
ceiv’d to an amorous inclination on
her part.’ ‘ No, faith, reply’d his friend,
I rather take her to be one of the in-
sensibles that way ; — but her lust of
gaming is insatiate ; — she would be
eternally at it, — there all the passions
of her soul are center’d ; and though
at present a profest enemy to religion,
would be the greatest devotee imagin-
able, were she once persuaded there
were gaming-tables in heaven.

‘ In fine, my dear Jemmy, pursu’d
he, the case stands thus, — she loses more
at play in one month, perhaps, than
the rent-roll of lord ***’s estate pro-
duces in a year ; and being, either
through fear or tenderness, unwilling
to make him acquainted with her ill
luck, prudently takes the method you
and I have experienced, of satisfying
the winners, and thinks herself no ill
wife in so doing ; since she forfeits her
husband’s honour only to preserve his
peace, and never repeats her transgression
with the same man, unless compell’d to
it

‘ it by a second necessity of the like nature.’

Jemmy being now, by this detail, entirely freed from the perplexity of thought which the first surprize at the strangeness of Liberia’s behaviour had involved him in, it is not to be doubted but that these two young gentlemen were pleasant enough on the affair in question, and mutually laugh’d at each other for the disappointment each of them had received, in imagining they had been favoured with a peculiar liking by that lady.

Neither of them having any engagements on their hands, they pass’d the whole evening together till the night was very far advanced, and called them to repose; during all which time little else but Liberia was talked on.

But as the repetition of a conversation, founded on such a topic, might not be very agreeable to such of our readers as we should be most studious to oblige; and besides, would be not at all material to the business of this history, we may reasonably hope being easily excused for passing it over in silence.

C H A P. X.

Affords but small matter of entertainment ; yet, if well consider'd, may be of singular use to some readers.

TH E R E is a certain haughty sur-
lineſs almost inherent to old age,
which will not let people, when they come
to be any thing advanced in years, allow
the least ſhare of understanding in those
of a younger ſort ; — they treat them as
mere idiots, incapable of comparing, —
judging, or even of knowing right from
wrong.

But this is a partiality which betrays
that want of diſcernment in themſelves
which they accufe in others ; — if youth,
through too much fire, is adiected to va-
nity, rashneſs and impetuosity ; age,
through too much phlegm, is no leſs
liable to peeviſhneſs, — obſtinacy, and
pride : — in both, the faults of conſtitu-
tion have but too great an effect upon the
will, and deprive reaſon of half its force.

The

The faculties of the mind certainly decay, and grow weaker in proportion as the vigour of the body is impair'd ; — a keenness of conception, — a readiness of thought, and what is generally call'd wit, are the gifts of youth ; — when the organs, through which the soul is said to operate, are in their full strength as nature made them, unobstructed by diseases, and unworn by time. — Age is chiefly wise by experience, and by improving those observations, which a long series of years had treasured up.

It must therefore be allow'd, that young people are far from being incapable of making the most just reflections ; but the baits of sense, — the excitements of pleasure, and the whirl of a thousand different passions, which incessantly agitate the ideas, prevent those reflections from making any lasting impression, and consequently from being of any real use in regulating their actions ; — so that they can be said to be discreet only by starts ; and it is in this alone that all the boasted advantages of age consists.

Nothing was ever more strictly true than what that celebrated poet, Mr. Dryden, says, when speaking of the difference
between

between youth and age, he expresses the whole sense of the argument in these two equally elegant and comprehensive lines :

Experience vainly in our youth is
sought,
And, by age purchas'd, is too dearly
bought.

Our Jemmy was one of those who never did any thing which reason could condemn, without being immediately self-convicted and ashamed of his error, though, as I said before, through the fire of youth, — the enchantments of pleasure, and the prevalence of example, he could not sometimes avoid falling again into the same.

As to play in particular, without any extraordinary propensity of his own, he was frequently drawn in to make a party at several gaming-tables, both private and public, yet did he never reflect on what money he had lost without being convinced he could not have disposed of it a worse way ; — nor did he ever win of any gentleman, whose circumstances he knew could not well bear a diminution, without being shock'd to the soul for

JEMMY and JENNY JESSAMY. 111
or having been one of those who had contributed to his misfortune.

He was perfectly sensible both of the vice and folly of gaming, as at present practiced among almost all degrees of people ; and stood amaz'd whenever he recollect'd, that he had seen men of the first figure and fortune in the kingdom, not only condescend to mix in company with the common sharpers and gamblers of the town, but also to make use of the same low arts they did, in order to force chance as it were, to be their friend.

He could not think, without a mixture of pity and contempt on those, who neglecting the accounts of their estates, and trusting all to their stewards and bailiffs, boasted how well they were versed in mr. Hoyle's calculation in the cutting of a pack of cards, and swear five pieces an hour was too small pay for the instructions of so learned a doctor in the great, mysterious, and most polite science of gaming.

He very often run over in his mind all the various amusements of the town ; and on comparing them with this of gaming, none of them seem'd to him to have so small a plea for engrossing either

the

‘ Every other pleasure or diversion,
said he within himself, have something
in them deserving of that name ; they
either regale the senses, or exercise the
body, or relieve the mind ; but gam-
ing is the contrary of all these ; it im-
pedes the gratification of our most na-
tural appetites, it enervates the limbs
with too long sitting, it racks the brain
with cares, it fills the bosom with
anxieties, and in fine, is a fatigue, which
were it not the effect of our own free
choice, would be intolerable.

‘ Nor is this all, would he sometimes
add ; an inordinate love of gaming cer-
tainly proceeds from avarice, the most
fordid passion of the heart, and con-
sequently destroys all that is generous,
noble, and sincere ; deadens that social
feel, that kindly warmth, which nature
has implanted in us towards our fellow
creatures ; and renders the man devo-
ted to this vice capable of no other
wish than to enjoy the infamous tri-
umph of bearing off the spoils of him
he plays against, though it should even
happen to be one he calls his friend,
or one who must be entirely ruined by
the

the loss of what he is now in possession of, through the favour of fortune, or a superior skill in the destructive art.'

He concluded from all this, that to undo others, or be undone oneself, was the almost certain consequence of gaming high ; for which reason he made many resolutions to avoid it as much as possible; and indeed persisted in them more than could be well expected from a man of his gay temper, and who, by the company he kept, was continually surrounded with temptations of that sort.

But if he thought the love of play so pernicious a thing in those of his own sex, in what light must he behold it in regard to those of the other ? — He had read some old musty authors, who maintained that modesty was the peculiar characteristic of womanhood ; that an innocence of deportment was the chief beauty of a virgin ; and œconomy in private, and a decent reserve in public, that of a married woman ; and he could not get it out of his head but that these maxims were just contrary, as they were to what he had seen practised at play by some ladies, who pass for patterns of politeness and fashionable good breeding ; and in comparing the difference, he could not forbear

114 *The HISTORY of*
forbear crying out, — ‘Sure, when these
‘ books were wrote, gaming was a thing
‘ never heard of among women!’

These having always been his notions, it could not be otherwise but that the example of Liberia must greatly contribute to fortify them in him, as he had now experienced what he had many times been told by those better acquainted with the ladies, that those debts, which are called debts of honour, are frequently discharged by loss of honour.

‘ What an amiable figure in life might this woman make, said he, speaking of Liberia, if it were not for this mad attachment to gaming? — I dare believe she has no vicious inclinations of her own, and her quality and marriage with lord * * defends her from all impudent addresses of our sex. — How strange then is the infatuation which compels her to run the fatal risque of being reduced to yield such condescents, as otherwise her pride would scorn, and her virtue shudder at! ’

He never ruminated in this manner without falling immediately after into a profound reverie, which whoever had seen him in would not have taken him for

for that gay, laughing, spirituous creature he appeared at other times ; but it generally happens that persons of that humour, when they think at all, think more deeply than those of a heavy and phlegmatic disposition.

The many mischiefs which sometimes befall the fair sex, by indulging themselves in this dangerous amusement, made him tremble for Jenny ; he knew she play'd occasionally, but though he had never heard her testify any extraordinary pleasure in it, yet he could not assure himself that she might not, by degrees, be drawn into a better liking of it, and consequently become liable to the same inconveniencies, to which so many others of her sex were every day subjected.

Love, friendship, and the consideration of his own interest and honour, as Jenny was one day to become his wife, obliged him therefore to do every thing in his power to prevent so great an evil ; nor could he think of any method more effectual for that end, than by reminding her, in a delicate way, and without seeming to do it with design, of the dangers to which women who love play, could not fail of being exposed.

He had no sooner thought on this, than he resolved to put it into immediate execution ; and to give the greater weight to what he intended to say, ransack'd his memory for all the alarming circumstances of a gaming-table, that he had ever either seen or heard of.

C H A P. XI.

A little more to the purpose.

J E M M Y knew that his fair mistress kept a great deal of company, and that most of her afternoons were taken up with giving and receiving visits ; — whenever, therefore, he had any particular conversation to entertain her with, he always went to her in a morning ; the business he had now to communicate seeming to him of too much importance to be delay'd, his impatience carried him thither more early than was his custom ; yet had he not the satisfaction of finding her alone ; the two lovely daughters of mrs. G— were just gone up-stairs before him ; but he was not much disconcerted at their presence, as he saw they were in their deshabillee, and he could not doubt but that the hour of the day

day would soon call them home, in order to ornament those charms which were too much admired not to make them desirous of shewing them to the best advantage, whenever they appeared in public places, which they seldom or rather never fail'd to take all opportunities of doing.

These ladies, whose history it is probable will some time or other make a very interesting figure in the world, were distinguish'd more by the name of the two beautiful sisters, than by that of their family ; they were, indeed, lovely beyond what language can describe, or fancy, without seeing them, delineate ; both of them were tall, finely shaped, of a most graceful air, had the most regular features ; eyes at once commanding and attracting love and admiration ; and so equally had nature dealt her bounties to them, that hard it is to say which of them excell'd in any one of those perfections which each posseſſ'd in so lavish an abundance.

But being so alike beautiful was certainly a misfortune to them ; for each seeming most lovely when the other was away, yet neither of them having the preference when together, the beholder's eye

eye was kept in a continual motion, without knowing on which to fix ; and this it was, which, join'd with some other considerations not my business to enquire into, that perhaps kept them much longer from being married, than many who have not the thousandth part of their power of charming.

This consideration, however, seem'd to have but little weight with them ; they lived in the most perfect harmony, were rarely seen asunder,—whether at the play, the opera,—the court,—the mall,—vaux-hall,—ranelagh, in all places of resort they were inseparable as the twin stars that grace the zodiac.

In fine, so much the same in every respect was this pair of charmers, that if Mr. Waller had lived in their days, one would have imagined he could have no other in his eye when he wrote these lines :

Not the silver Doves that fly,
Yoak'd in Cytharea's car ;
Not the wings which soar so high,
And convey her son so far,
Are so lovely, sweet and fair,
Or do more ennable love,
Are so choicely match'd a pair,
Or with more consent to move.

Fortunately for Jemmy's design, it so fell out that the conversation turn'd chiefly on the subject of gaming on account of a certain lady, who having no more than five and twenty hundred pounds per annum, had, according to her own confession, lost nine thousand in one season at play.

Jenny express'd, with so much warmth and spirit, the contempt she had of those who made a kind of business, or trade, as it were of this amusement, as sufficiently denoted the sincerity of her heart, while she was speaking, and gave Jemmy an infinite satisfaction in hearing her.

The two beautiful sisters made but a very short visit, as Jemmy had conjectured, and after they were gone, he resumed the topic they had all been talking on ; ' You women, said he smiling, have much the advantage over us men ; some of you, at least, have been ingenious enough to have found out a very easy method of discharging all the debts they contract at play : I could give you, continued he, a thousand instances of what I say ; but shall content myself with only one, in which a friend of mine made me the confidant, and on whose veracity

‘ veracity I dare as much depend, as if
‘ I had been in his place, and one of the
‘ chief parties concern’d in it.’

Finding Jenny look’d earnestly upon him all the time he had been speaking, and seem’d in a disposition to give attention to every thing he said upon that subject, he went on, and related to her, with as much brevity and modesty as such an affair would permit, all that had pass’d between himself, Liberia, and the other gentleman, who had been a sharer with him in the favour of that lady, hiding from her only the names and some few circumstances which might have given her room to guess more than he wish’d she should do.

Jenny was shock’d to the very soul at this recital ; she had been witness of many extravagancies that women, who devote themselves to gaming, are often guilty of ; she knew very well that they reduced themselves to great streights, sometimes even to the total ruin of their own and husbands fortune ; but could never have imagined that any of them, merely for the sake of play, would have proceeded to those frightful lengths she now was told of.

After having expressed some part of her astonishment and indignation at such a depravity of nature, ‘ How ought, cried she, every one to guard against the first approaches of this dangerous propensity ! and then again, bless me ! added she, how can any one, who has a tongue to speak, and common sense to dictate what they say, lavish those hours in gaming, which might be pass’d in an agreeable and improving conversation ! If no other ill consequences than bearly loss of time attended it, methinks it were enough to hinder any one, not altogether void of reason, from pursuing, with the eagerness some do, an amusement at the best trifling and idle.’

It is not to be doubted but that Jemmy was quite transported, at finding in his fair mistress sentiments so just and so exactly conformable to those he had, with the greatest ardency, wish’d she should be inspired with ; he had no words which seem’d to him sufficient to praise, as they deserved, her prudence and penetration, yet said enough on that occasion to put her modesty to the blush.

‘ Do not fancy me to be posses’d of more merit than I have, answer’d she ;

‘ I believe that many of our sex, with
‘ as little inclination as myself to play,
‘ have been enticed to it by the examples
‘ of those whom we are so silly as to
‘ think it an honour to imitate, even in
‘ their vices ; whatever we see practised
‘ by those of the great world becomes a
‘ law to us of the inferior class ; and I
‘ can tell you, that it is not to my own
‘ judgment, but, to mere accident, that
‘ I am brought to a more reasonable
‘ way of thinking. ’

‘ You must know, continued she, that
‘ a lady, who is a distant relation of mine,
‘ took me with her one evening to the
‘ route of a person of condition ; there
‘ was a prodigious deal of company,
‘ three large rooms made into one, and
‘ no less than fourteen tables set out for
‘ different sorts of gaming ; — every
‘ body played, and though I never was
‘ fond of cards, yet was ashamed, in so
‘ public an assembly, not to do as others
‘ did, so engaged myself with a party
‘ who were sitting down to whist : either
‘ through want of skill, or attention, I
‘ soon lost twenty pieces, which was all
‘ I had about me at that time ; but ha-
‘ ving no notion of giving over, as the
‘ others were for continuing, I went to
‘ my cousin, who was at quadrille at
‘ another

another table, in order to get a fresh supply from her; but, to my great mortification, found she was entirely stript as well as myself; there was none of the company, with whom I was intimate enough to become a borrower.

‘ I must confess, pursued she, that I then was silly enough to be heartily vex’d at this disappointment, and retired to the other end of the room, debating within myself whether I should go quite away, or stay to see how my cousin would behave, who I found was still at play with the same party she had been engaged in. As I was in this perplexity, the earl of ***, who had betted at our table, and been witness both of my ill luck and present confusion, came towards me, and putting a purse, that seem’d very weighty, into my hand, which he held fast grasp’d between both his, — It is pity, said he, that so fine a young lady should be deprived of her diversion on any account whatever, much less on that of a little poultry cash; accept these few pieces, they may be more lucky to you than your own; but if it prove otherwise, command as

‘ many from me as you shall stand in
‘ need of.

‘ I protest to you, went she still on,
‘ that I was so confounded at finding my
‘ self accosted in this manner, that I had
‘ neither courage nor presence of mind
‘ enough to relent at first so impudent
‘ an overture, as I ought to have done;
‘ and it was the simplicity of my beha-
‘ viour which, perhaps, encouraged him
‘ to proceed; for I only asking what his
‘ lordship meant, he reply’d with an air
‘ and voice sufficiently explanatory of the
‘ base thoughts he had of me, ‘ I mean
‘ to devote myself, and all I have, at the
‘ altar of your charms; happy if you
‘ smile upon the sacrifice.’

‘ Never was any poor creature so over-
‘ whelm’d with different passions as I
‘ then was; amazement, shame, disdain,
‘ and rage, at once rose in my bosom,
‘ and almost stopp’d the passage of my
‘ breath. I forgot all respect of his birth
‘ and place; and throwing the purse he
‘ had given me upon the floor,—carry
‘ your offers, said I, to those who want
‘ them, I despise both them and the hand
‘ from which they came.

‘ With

• With these words I burst from him
• and rejoin'd the company ; my cousin
• was still playing, having borrow'd of
• some person she was acquainted with,
• and I kept leaning over the back of
• her chair all the time we stay'd ; his
• lordship pass'd by me more than once,
• and discover'd by his looks that he was
• no less affronted at my behaviour than
• I had been at his, which, contrary to
• what it is likely his vanity might make
• him imagine, gave me more satisfaction
• than discontent.

• I was, however, very much agitated
• to think that any man, how great so-
• ever, had dared to treat me with the free-
• dom he had done ; on coming home I
• complained of it to my cousin, but
• she only ridiculed me for it ; told me
• I was a novice in the ways of the town ;
• that if she had been in my place, she
• would have taken his money and laugh'd
• at him afterwards for bestowing it ; for
• which I liked her so ill, that I have
• ever since avoided her as much as
• possible.

• Thus you see, my dear Jemmy,"
added she, on concluding her little nar-
rative, " that my dislike of gaming is
• not owing to my prudence in consider-

‘ ing the folly of it, for I confess I never
‘ thought much about the matter, but
‘ merely to my lord ***’s behaviour ;
‘ for certainly no young woman of com-
‘ mon modesty, if treated as I was, will
‘ ever indulge herself in an amusement
‘ that renders her virtue liable to be ex-
‘ posed to such insolent attacks.’

It was not in the power of all she could say, however, to make Jemmy desist from giving her the praises she deserved, nor from entertaining in his mind the most high idea of her understanding, as well as her virtue, insomuch, that could he have thought himself equally qualified in what might be expected from a husband, as she was in every thing that could be wish’d for in a wife, he would have seen no reason for delaying their mutual happiness one moment.

But a just consciousness of some little frailties, which afforded him too much pleasure to be able as yet to rectify, made him forbear to press her on the subject of their marriage for the present.

C H A P. XII.

Contains a very notable instance of friendship a-la-mode.

WHILE our lovers were thus endeavouring to form their minds in such a manner as should enable them to render each other perfectly happy, when they should come to be united together, there were not wanting some who made it their chief study to contrive the means of separating them for ever.

Jemmy had contracted a very numerous acquaintance since his father's death, many of whom had a large share of his esteem and friendship ; but there was one above the rest whose humour and behaviour he was particularly taken with, and with whom he conversed with the most unreserved freedom.

This gentleman, who was called Bellpine, was descended from a very ancient family, and had been, through the extravagance and ill management of his father, deprived of all that ought to have been his patrimony, except two hundred

pounds a year, which had been settled upon his mother by way of jointure, and could not be dissipated.

He had, notwithstanding, been flatter'd with the expectation of being one day in possession of an estate of near three thousand pounds per annum, being the undoubted heir of an uncle, who having lived a bachelor till a very advanced age, there was not the least probability of his ever changing his condition, and much less of his having any children, even in case such a thing should happen; and this dependance it was that hindered him from being bred up to any business or profession, and also gave him an air of self-sufficiency, in some measure conformable to the fortune he so reasonably hoped to become master of.

This uncle, however, to the extreme surprise of all that knew him, at the age of eighty-two, and equally laden with infirmities and years, took it into his head to marry a daughter of one of his tenants in the country, — a girl scarce nineteen.

An accident such as this, could not, when it happen'd, but give a very great shock to Bellpine, as he could not assure himself

himself but that, in spite of his uncle's great age, a child, some way or other, might come, and cut him off at once from the inheritance he had been made to depend upon ; yet did he not suffer his spirits to sink on this occasion, he rather exerted them all, in order to find some means to remedy, or, at least, to abate the asperity of this disappointment ; the most feasible ones, he thought, would be to procure, if possible, some genteel employment about court, and, at the same time, make his addresses to some lady of an handsome fortune for a wife.

He was soliciting at the levees of the great for the accomplishment of his first project ; and casting about in his mind where he should direct his courtship with the most probability of succeeding in the other, when he commenced an acquaintance with Jemmy ; chance brought them at first together, and a mutual liking of each other's conversation, by degrees, grew up to that intimacy between them already mention'd.

Jemmy was of the most open communicative disposition that man could possibly be ; he had very few affairs in life which he made secrets of to any of those whom he call'd his friends ; but

with Bellpine he maintain'd no reserve
he made him the confidant of all his
looser pleasures, his foibles, his very
thoughts were not conceal'd from him ;
it therefore may be supposed that he
disguis'd not the honourable affection he
had for Jenny, the care that both their
parents had taken to bring them up in
notions of being united together when
they arrived at years of maturity, and
also the reasons urg'd on her side, and
agreed to on his, for delaying, for some
time, the celebration of their nuptials.

As his heart was warm with a passion,
which duty and the custom of looking
on her as the person ordain'd for his
wife, had at first inspired him with, and
a just sensibility of the many amiable
qualities she was mistress of, had after-
wards greatly heighten'd in him, he spoke
of her in a manner sufficient to inflame
the heart of the hearer with envy at his
happiness ; in this, indeed, it must be
confess'd that he shew'd more sincerity
than prudence ; but as one of our poets
observes,

Those free from guile themselves, can
scarce believe,
That others will be false.-----

Nor was this all ; he contented not himself with giving him a bare idea of what she was, he introduced him to her acquaintance, he frequently made him a partner in his visits to her, recommended him as a person highly worthy of her esteem and friendship ; and, in fine, spoke of him in terms which obliged her to treat him as such ; little, alas, suspecting that while doing this he was whetting the edge of a sword that might one day be pointed against his own bosom.

Bellpine was far from being the man the honest heart of Jemmy mistook him for ; he was possess'd, it is true, of many accomplishments both natural and acquired ; but had no fund either of honour or generosity ; he knew perfectly well how to insinuate himself into the good graces of those he convers'd with ; but thought himself not bound to make an adequate return for any favours he received from them ; all his wishes were center'd in self-gratification, and no consideration for others had ever any weight to make him desist that favourite pursuit.

Being of a disposition such as I have described, it is not to be wonder'd at that the fine person and large fortune of

Jenny should make him envy the happiness of him who was to be the possessor of that double treasure ; he lov'd her on the score of her beauty, her wit, and the many amiable qualities he had observed in her ; but adored her as being the mistress of what he so much wanted ; and fill'd with the idea of those advantages he might reap in an alliance with her, made him resolve on the attempt, and to take all the methods his inventive fancy could inspire to alienate her affections from his friend.

He had often heard Jemmy say, that the agreement between them for protracting the celebration of their marriage had been first proposed by her ; from whence he concluded, that the passion she had for him was not so violent but that it might be easily withdrawn, if she was once made to believe there was a decay in that he profess'd for her.

He was sensible, notwithstanding, that there required a more than common share of caution and address in the management of this design ; he saw very well, that Jenny had a great deal of sagacity, and penetration ; it behoved him therefore, either to throw such a temptation in Jemmy's way as should render him in-

in effect ungrateful and perfidious, or contrive such appearances of his being so, as could not be discover'd from reality by any human wit.

With the first of these measures he commenc'd the prosecution of his design, though of the two the least feasible to be accomplish'd, as it was very difficult to find a woman who excell'd Jenny in any one perfection, that can attract the eye, or captivate the heart; 'Love, said he within himself, is seldom so much the effect of reason as of fancy, and if I can be so lucky as to present an object capable of firing the heart of this too happy rival with an amorous flame, and she has virtue or cunning enough to refuse the gratification on any other terms than those of marriage, it may so happen, that all the merits of Jenny, and his engagements with her, will be too light to over-balance inclination.'

He knew that Jemmy was extremely fond of music; he had seen him in the utmost raptures on hearing a melodious voice, or an instrument finely play'd upon; and it was by this bait he hoped to allure Jemmy from his vows; or, at least, to draw him into such a manner of behaviour as should picque the pride of

To dissolve the cement of that tender affection, with which they now regarded each other, would go a great way towards gaining the point he aim'd at ; he flatter'd himself, that if he could once set them at variance, he was at present enough in Jenny's favour to be able to obtain the first share in her tenderness, when taken off from the man who now engross'd it.

The person, whose charms he intended as the snare to entrap the constancy of Jemmy, was call'd miss Chit ; she pass'd, in the opinion of most people, for the daughter of a gentleman distinguished in the world for nothing so much as for being her father ; but it was whisper'd, by those who pretended to be conniessieurs in the secret intrigues of the great, that she really sprung from parents of a much more elevated station.

She was young, handsome, well shap'd, and though of somewhat too diminutive a stature, had an air and mien extremely striking ; she wanted neither wit nor assurance to set off the talents she was mistress of to the best advantage ;

tage ; she was a great courtier, and perfectly skill'd in all the rudiments of modish good breeding ; but the chief inducement that Bellpine had to make choice of her as the instrument of his purpose was this ; nature had given her a voice that seem'd the very soul of harriony, and when accompanied by her harpsichord, which she finely touch'd, the mellifluous sounds had power to calm the most raging passions of the mind, and convert all into love and soft desire ; so that what the poet says of Mira might be justly enough ascrib'd to her,

The wretch, who from her wit and
beauty flies,
If she but reach him with her voice,
he dies.

Bellpine frequently visited this lady, and was welcome to her on account of his facetious conversation, and the intelligence he pick'd up among his acquaintance, and was continually bringing her of the intrigues of the town. As he was well received by her, he could not fail of being so by her father, who, it was easy to perceive, was but the second person in the family ; standing as he did with both, it cannot be supposed he wanted

wanted interest to introduce any one he thought proper to her acquaintance.

He would not, however, proceed too abruptly in the affair, as it might have spoil'd all, if either party had suspected him of design ; but watch'd an opportunity, when they were talking one day of music, to ask Jemmy, in a careless manner, as it were by chance, if he had ever heard miss Chit sing and play ?

‘ No, reply'd he, but I have heard she does both to very great perfection.’
‘ I wonder, said the other, that you should not have the curiosity to be judge of her skill that way yourself, as you are so great a lover of music !’

‘ I have not the honour to be at all known to her, return'd Jemmy, nor have even ever seen her, any more than en passant, once or twice I think at court, and two or three times in the mall with lady Fisk.’

‘ I am pretty free there, cried Bell-pine, and if you have an inclination to hear this female Orpheus of the town, will take you with me, and also engage she shall give you a touch of her harmony both vocal and instrumental ; for,

for, to do her justice, she has not the least reserve in this point ; her harpsichord is never out of tune, nor her voice disconcerted with a cold.'

Jemmy express'd a great deal of satisfaction at this offer, but gave much more than what he felt himself to his pretended friend, who look'd on the ready compliance he found in him as a happy beginning of the enterprize he had projected ; so both being of the same mind, they agreed to meet at White's the next day, and then proceed on their visit to the lady.

C H A P. XIII.

Is full of remarkable and interesting particulars.

BELLPINE had no occasion to make any previous apology to miss Chit for bringing a friend with him to visit her, having already taken that liberty, without her being displeased with it, in favour of several of his companions, who had testified to him a desire of becoming acquainted with her.

But

But it was not in this manner he chose to introduce Jemmy ; — the plot he had laid required they should appear as agreeable as possible to each other ; — it was therefore highly necessary to prepossess her with such an idea of the person she was to see, as should make her neglect nothing that might set off all the charms she was mistress of to the best advantage.

Having well considered within himself under what character a man was likely to appear in the eyes of a young, — gay, — vain woman, he went to her pretty early in the morning, and began with telling her he was come in behalf of a gentleman, who had entreated him to be his intercessor for permission to wait on her with him that afternoon.

This formal speech, from a man whose usual deportment might rather be accused of too little than too much ceremony, made her laugh very heartily : — ‘ Bless me, — said she, — what romances have you been reading ! — we are not sure running back to the days of O-roondates and Statyra ; if you have any friend to bring here, what need all this prelude ? you know very well that every one you introduce is welcome.’

Bellpine

Bellpine on this threw off the serious air he had affected, and resumed that free and undaunted one which was most natural to him, ‘ Faith, madam, answer’d ‘ he, I can easily join with you in laughing at myself ; I know I must make an odd figure in the grave strain, by the pains I took in putting it on ; but I thought as I was one of cupid’s harbingers, my message ought to be deliver’d in somewhat above the common phrase.’

‘ A harbinger from cupid, cried she ; I find then you would persuade me you have this commission to me from a lover. Most certainly, answer’d he, from one who is three parts so at least ; he is already charmed with your face, your air, your shape, and there is only wanting your fine voice to complete the conquest.

‘ Of whom ? demanded she ; ’tis fit I should know the name of this new vassal.’ ‘ Have a little patience, said he, and I will tell you every thing ; in the first place he is a young heir, lately come to the possession of an estate sufficient to support a coach and six ; in the next he is handsome, well made, has as genteel

‘ genteel an address as any man about town ; lastly, he is allow’d to have wit, honour, and good nature, and his name is Jeffamy.’

‘ I have seen that gentleman, return’d she, somewhat seriously ; and believe you have done him no more than justice in the representation you have made of him ; but I have been told he is deeply engaged, and on the point of being married to a young lady of his own name ; I think they call her miss Jenny Jeffamy.’

‘ Nothing in it, upon my honour, cried Bellpine ; I can aver to you from my own knowledge, that there are no two people in the world of different sexes that have a more perfect indifference for each other ; there was, indeed, such a thing intended for them by their fathers ; but the old men are both dead, and you know, madam, we young folks are apt to pay but little regard to the injunctions laid upon us by those who are no longer in a condition to resent our disobedience.

‘ It is true, continued this artful deceiver, they see each other very frequently, hold a good correspondence,

con-

• converse as friends; but without one grain
• of inclination on either side. I am very
• well assured, by what I have heard both
• of them declare, that should either of
• them insist on the performance of the
• covenant made between their parents, an
• eternal breach must infallibly ensue.'

Jemmy and Jenny Jessamy kept too much company not to be well known in the polite world; their characters, their fortunes, and their mutual engagements, were no secret; they were the subjects of conversation among many who had not the least personal acquaintance with either of them; and it was a matter of surprise to every one that a marriage, which had so long ago been projected, was not as yet consummated.

As no body had pretended to discover any reason for this unaccountable delay, miss Chit might easily give credit to that which Bellpine now assigned for it. Bellpine watch'd her every look, and perceiving that his insinuations had wrought thus far on her belief, proceeded to what now seem'd to him a task not difficult to be accomplish'd; that of persuading her Jemmy in reality felt some beginnings of a passion for her.

‘ You cannot imagine, said he, with what raptures he expresses himself concerning you ; the first time he saw you was at court ; I was with him the same evening, and he could talk on nothing but you the whole time we were together.—What eyes she has,—how bright, how sparkling,—what a mouth,—how finely turn’d, — how delicate is her shape,—how enchanting is her air !’

‘ Hold, mr. Bellpine,’ interrupted she, putting her hand before his mouth, ‘ for the sake of curiosity no more ; if you go on at this rate I shall know all before-hand, and he will have nothing new to say to me when he comes.’

‘ Nay, rejoin’d Bellpine, I do not suppose he will say much to you at this first visit, nor perhaps at the second, or even at the third. I have been told, by those who have experienced the passion, that a true lover never gets courage to declare what he feels to his mistress till half the town are appriz’d of it by his behaviour ; but, pursued he, you will have penetration enough to read in his looks what his lips wants boldness to reveal.’

‘ Pish,

‘ Pish, said she, do you think I shall give myself the trouble to examine his looks? it will be time enough for me to attend to them when his tongue shall have explain’d the dictates of his heart.’

They had some farther discourse on this head, and in spite of the careless air miss Chit affected to put on, the cunning Bellpine saw the impression his words had made upon her; and, after adding all that he thought necessary for strengthening it in her, took his leave, highly applauding himself in his mind for what he had done.

He met Jemmy at the appointed hour at the chocolate house, and about tea time went with him on their purposed visit; on his sending up his name they were immediately shew’d to the room where miss Chit was sitting; when he found, by the great care she had taken in her dress, and the exactness of every thing about her, that he had not flattered himself with a vain conjecture, but that she was indeed as desirous as he could wish of appearing lovely in the eyes of this new guest.

Jemmy,

Jemmy, being presented her by Bellpine, saluted her with the utmost gallantry ; she received him with a becoming modesty, which, notwithstanding, had something of inviting in it ; the conversation at first turn'd only on general topics ; but Bellpine would not suffer it to continue so, and told her, in his usual free manner, that he should not think himself forgiven for the liberty he had taken, till she had obliged both him and his friend with a song and a touch of her harpsichord.

To this she replied, with a sprightly tone of voice and gesture, that whatever he might think of her, she had too much complaisance for a stranger, who seem'd so well to deserve it, not to do every thing in her power to render the visit he had favour'd her with agreeable to him.

In speaking these words she sat down to her instrument, and, without waiting for any more intreaties, began to sing one of the most favourite airs in Mr. Händel's last oratorio.

As she had in reality a very fine voice, great skill in music, and played admirably

bly well, there was no occasion that Jemmy should stretch truth to a pitch too high in expressing the pleasure he took in hearing her.

But it was not in mere words alone he testified the mighty influence that the well concerted notes had over him ; — he languished, — he died, — his soul seem'd all absorb'd, — dissolv'd in extacy ; — and he not only spoke, but look'd in such a manner as without being prepossess'd, as she was, with an opinion of his having a passion for her, might well make her believe she had other charms for him besides those of her voice and skill in music.

As often as she gave over, Bellpine press'd her to renew the harmony ; and sometimes Jemmy assumed the boldness to second a petition, which he was very sensible was made entirely on his account. The lady was not refractory to their united intreaties, and continued playing till her father came into her room.

The usual compliments being past, they all sat down and enter'd into conversation ; but whatever subject was started by the old gentleman, either the

one or the other of miss Chit's visitors had the address to turn it on the praise of music, and the perfection which she had attain'd to in that science.

Jemmy said many things which might seem extravagant on this occasion ; but thinking he had stay'd long enough for a first visit, rose up and was preparing to take his leave, when mr. Chit, who had been tutor'd before-hand by his daughter how he should behave, would not suffer him to speak of going, seiz'd upon his hat and gloves, and said that if his daughter had afforded them any entertainment, it was owing to him for having provided the best masters for her ; and he therefore expected they would recompence him for it, by giving him their company the remainder of the evening ; adding, that supper was just ready to be served up.

Jemmy would fain have excused himself, as he had an appointment which he was very unwilling to break ; but there was no resisting the present kind compulsion, especially as miss Chit condescended to join her intreaties with her father's ; he therefore comply'd and contented himself with sending an apology to those who expected his coming.

The.

The collation prepared for them was elegant, the old gentleman's conversation so facetious, and his daughter's music so delightful, that the night was almost lost in morning-dawn when Jemmy and his false friend came away; but what use the latter made of this long visit the reader will very soon discover.

- C H A P. XIV.

Seems big with the promise of some mighty matters hereafter to be brought to light.

IT was so very late when the little company broke up, that Bellpine had no opportunity of putting any questions to Jemmy concerning his sentiments of the lady he had introduced him to; and as they lived different ways, took leave of each other at mr. Chit's door, without any farther speech that night.

Full of impatience, however, for the success of his pernicious plot, he went pretty early the next morning to his house; and, according to his wish, found

He was scarce sat down, when he had the satisfaction of hearing Jemmy himself prepare the way for the conversation he intended to entertain him with, by thanking him for the pleasure he had enjoy'd the night before through his means.

‘ I wish from my soul, reply'd this wicked incendiary, that it were in my power to procure you a much more ample and substantial one; music indulges no more than a single sense, miss Chit has charms that might engross the whole five.— Ah, Jemmy,— continued he, embracing him, what a heaven it would be, after an hour or two of dalliance, to be lull'd to sleep by that angelic voice, pressing at the same time the ruby lips whence the transporting sounds proceeded! and then, ye gods, awake to a new raptures and repeated bliss.’

Jemmy laugh'd heartily at the extasy which the other affected to feel through the force of imagination. ‘ You with me a happiness, cried he, yet speak, methinks, as if you could not avoid being one of those who would envy me the

‘ the possession of it ; but my dear friend, added he, you have no need to be under any apprehensions on that score ; for to deal sincerely, I like miss Chit as a musician, but shall never think of her as a woman.’

These words gave a most terrible shock to the high-raised expectations of Bill-pine ; but, as he was master of an uncommon share of artifice, and an equal presence of mind, it was easy for him to conceal one emotion under the shew of another ; and, starting back with a well counterfeited surprise, ‘ Impossible, cried he, you cannot sure be so infensible, so altogether untouch’d with charms that half the town are running mad after !’

‘ You know, answer’d Jemmy, with a very serious air, I am under engagements elsewhere, which will not permit me to make my addresses to her or any other woman upon honourable terms ; and I cannot suppose they would be accepted by miss Chit if offer’d with a view of a different nature.’

‘ I cannot flatter you so far as that, indeed,’ reply’d he, still disconcerted, and more so, when Jemmy hastily re-

join'd, ' I wonder, Bellpine, that having
' so just a sense of the lady's merit, you
' never made your court to her your-
' self ? '

On an interrogatory so unthought on, all his audacity forsook him ; he was silent for some moments, but at length recovering himself, his ready wit furnish'd him with an excuse which seem'd plausible enough, and was certainly the only one that could have had the least appearance of sincerity.

' I shall disguise nothing of the truth
' from you, said he ; to be plain then,
' it is my vexatious circumstances which
' alone deter me ; since my uncle has
' taken a step that may possibly deprive
' me of the inheritance I was born to
' expect, I have no dowry to offer with
' my services ; a woman that has money
' demands a jointure adequate to the sum
' she brings ; and for me to marry one
' whose only portion is her beauty and good
' qualities, would render both her and
' myself for ever miserable ; so that
' whether miss Chit is, or is not a for-
' tune, she is quite out of the question
' with me as a wife.'

He spoke all this with so much seeming candour and openness of heart, that Jemmy thought himself more than ever confirm'd in the opinion he had always entertain'd of the good sense and honour of his friend; and readily agreed with him, that where a marriage was consummated between two persons, neither of whom had a sufficient competency, it could not fail of making both parties equally unhappy, and also of entailing lasting wretchedness on their posterity.

Bellpine soon grew weary of this discourse, as it had no connexion with his present views; and therefore made his visit much shorter than he at first had intended it, and retir'd to a place where he might give a loose to his discontent, and contrive some other means of bringing his designs to perfection, since those he had already essay'd had proved so ineffectual.

As it was not in his power to make Jemmy become guilty in fact, his next resource was to make him appear so: to blacken him by any ill report directly to Jenny herself, he knew would be in vain, and treated with contempt by a woman of her penetration; he therefore

took a more artful and more sure, tho' slow method of infusing the poison of jealousy and indignation into her soul ; he gave it out in whispers, inuendoes, and dark hints, among those whom he found fond of scandal and of explaining mysteries of that kind, that Jemmy had an utter aversion to Jenny in his heart ; that he was seeking some excuse to break entirely with her ; and that it was miss Chit who had caused this change in him : he had no great cause to doubt but that this rumour would spread from one to another through the town, and become so much the universal secret, that it could not fail of reaching Jenny's ears ; and then he concluded that it would, by degrees, steal itself into her belief.

As Jemmy was a man of pleasure, and did not live without many transient amours, it may seem a little strange to some people that Bellpine, who by his intimacy with him, could not be a stranger to the errors of his conduct, did not chuse to get communicated to Jenny such things as a very small enquiry would convince her were true, rather than endeavour to alarm her with reports which had no foundation in fact.

But

But this was not Bellpine's way of reasoning ; he rightly judged, that a woman of Jenny's understanding might easily be brought to forgive the frailties of youth and nature in a man of Jemmy's gay and volatile disposition ; but would be irreconcileable, implacable, if once made to believe he address'd any other upon honourable terms.

It is easy for persons capable of inventing falsehoods to propagate them in such a manner as to make them pass current for a time, and yet avoid any detection of their being the authors of it ; it is not by saying directly a thing is so, that a story so much gains credit, as by half words, — winks, — nods, and other such like gestures ; — these are the traps which catch the unwary, and give an air of reality to that which has no existence. Bellpine at least was well versed in this art, and practised it with such success as to the matter in question, and was so far from being suspected of having raised this report, that he has often been ask'd by those who heard from other hands what his opinion was concerning the truth of it.

Jenny, on account of her many accomplishments and good nature, was so generally beloved by those who knew her, and her character in such estimation with those who were not personally acquainted with her, that none could hear, without the most extreme surprise, that she was about to be forsaken by a man who from his very infancy had been taught to look upon her as his future wife, and for whom she made no secret of having the most tender affection.

But whenever this subject was mention'd to Bellpine, as it frequently so happen'd, he affected to hang down his head and be entirely silent ; or, if desir'd by some one or other of the company to speak his thoughts, ' I am no judge of the affair, would he say, mr. Jeffamy is my friend, and I should be loth to think him capable of a bad action ; miss Jenny is certainly a fine girl, and so is miss Chit ; if he has changed his sentiments he doubtless has his reasons, but I know nothing of it.'

His intimacy with Jemmy was so well known, that these undeterminate answers from him gave more credit to the story than

JEMMY and JENNY JESSAMY. 155
than the most positive assurances given
by any other person could have done.

Nor was this all ; to give the greater
appearances of the truth of what he
thought it was so much his interest to
have believed, he contrived it so that
Jemmy and miss Chit should frequently
be seen together in public places, though,
for the most part, they met without the
least design on the side of either of them.

Jemmy, indeed, could not avoid be-
ing somewhat accessory in corroborating
the aspersion cast upon himself, as he had
been introduced to that young lady, and
received by her in the manner above-
mentioned, the complaisance due to her
sex and rank, join'd to the pleasure he
took in hearing her sing and play, ob-
lig'd him sometimes to visit her ; Bell-
pine was generally with them ; and when
he was so, always found some pretext or
other to draw them out where he knew
there would be people who would not
fail to take notice of their being together.

It requires more pains to be a villain
than some people may imagine ; besides
imposing upon Jemmy, and making him
act in a manner which shew'd his senti-
ments to the world far different from

156 *The HISTORY of*
what they were in reality, Bellpine had
also another card to play, which cost
him little less contrivance.

As he had possess'd miss Chit at first with a belief that Jemmy was seriously inspired with a passion for her, and knew very well that gentleman's behaviour had not at all been conformable to the assurances he had given her on his account, it behoved him to reconcile this contradiction so as not to leave her any room to suspect the deception he had put upon her.

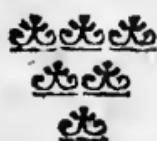
He therefore continued, day after day, to carry her some fresh intelligence of the fine things Jemmy said of her ; and insinuated that there was a design on foot, which, when once executed, would afford him a plausible pretence for breaking off entirely with Jenny ; and that then he would avow his passion and declare himself devoted only to her.

Whether this young lady was absolutely convinced of the truth of what he said, I will not take upon me to determine ; because, indeed, it is highly probable she never gave herself the trouble to examine the consistency of the story.

Dan-

Dangerous, however, might such an imposition have been to some ladies, to have been flatter'd with the hopes of an alliance with a man such as Jemmy, perfectly agreeable in his person, accomplished in his manners, and opulent in his fortune; and then to find at once all those golden expectations vanish into air, might certainly have been fatal in its consequences, to a heart young, tender, and unexperienced in deceit.

Happy was it for miss Chit, in this point at least, that the variety of company, the many fine things said to her by persons of condition, and particularly the devoirs, whether feign'd or real, of a certain foreign minister, hinder'd her from being too attentive to the idea which the artifices of Bellpine might otherwise have engrofs'd her with.



C H A P. XV.

Contains an example that for a woman to be too good is not one of those things which are impossible to be found in human life.

THOUGH the foregoing report, began and industriously propagated by Bellpine, had spread itself through all the acquaintance both of Jemmy and Jenny, yet did it not presently reach the ears of either of them ; and they went on, as they had been accustom'd to do, communicating to each other every little adventure which fell into the way of each, provided they were such as might be, in any measure, conducive to the important end propos'd, that of rectifying or improving their minds.

Among the many they recited to each other, some of which were too trifling to be inserted here, Jemmy happen'd upon one of a most extraordinary nature, and therefore must not be omitted ; it was this :

He had been for some time pretty conversant with a gentleman named Kelsey ; he was a man of family, fortune, good sense, and a very agreeable companion ; but one thing was said of him, that, in the opinion of all the discreet part of his acquaintance, tarnish'd the lustre of all his other qualities, — that of his being a very bad husband to a most deserving wife.

This lady, to whom he had been married scarce a year, was very young, beautiful, and had every thing in her person requisite to make her beloved ; and was in high estimation for the strictness of her virtue, her piety, and the affability of her behaviour ; how could it then but seem strange to Jemmy, that two persons of the characters these bore in the world should not live happily together ? he never heard any mention of the disagreement between them, without feeling a kind of painful curiosity for the cause, but he could find none who were able to give him any information in that point, tho' every one spoke loudly of the effects.

Chance at last presented him with the wish'd for discovery : a gentleman of distinction, a distant relation of Jemmy's, was

was to have a private concert at his own house ; Jemmy was one of the invited persons, with leave to bring any friend with him whom he should think proper ; on which he made choice of Kelsey, and accordingly made him a visit on the morning of the day appointed, to desire he would accompany him to this entertainment, if not previously engaged to any other place.

Mr. Kelsey thank'd him for the obliging offer he had made him, reply'd, that he had no engagement at all upon his hands ; ' but if I had, said he, I should ' be tempted to break through it, since I ' am certain none could afford me so ' much real pleasure as that of waiting ' on mr. Jessamy any where ; but more ' especially, continued he, on an occa- ' sion so perfectly agreeable to my taste.'

Jemmy, after having made a suitable return to this compliment, was preparing to take leave, and desir'd that they might meet at White's chocolate-house about six ; but the other would not suffer him to depart in this manner, he insisted on his staying to dine with him, and pass the time where he was till the hour arrived in which they should adjourn to a place more agreeable.

Jemmy

Jemmy would have excused himself from dining, as he had not the honour, he said, to be known to his lady: — to which mr. Kelsey answer'd, that his wife was not ignorant of the respect due from her to any of her husband's friends.

The curiosity that Jemmy had for being an eye-witness of a lady's deportment whom he had heard so much of, and as yet had never seen, she seldom appearing in any public place, prevail'd with him at length to comply with her husband's request; they amused themselves with looking over some fine pieces of music, which mr. Kelsey had that morning brought home in score, till three o'clock, at which hour he had order'd dinner to be ready.

The clock having struck, that gentleman conducted his guest into the next room, where they found the sideboard set out, the cloth laid, the corks of the bottles drawn, and every thing prepared for dinner being served up; but no servant was in waiting all was hush'd and silent as tho' they had just rose from table, instead of not being as yet set down.

Mr.

Mr. Kelsey waited some minutes, but at last rung the bell, on which the butler came up ; on being ask'd if dinner was not ready, he reply'd, with some hesitation, that he would enquire of the cook, and then went hastily away ; soon after mr. Kelsey rung again, and another servant appear'd, to whom his master making the same demand as to the former, answer'd bluntly, that his lady was not yet come out of her closet : ' Go then and call her, said mr. Kelsey : ' — the fellow went, but returned immediately, and said the door was lock'd, and tho' he had both knock'd and call'd could get no answer ; on which mr. Kelsey grew extremely red, and begging pardon of Jemmy for leaving him alone a moment flew up stairs himself.

Jemmy was very much surpris'd at all this, but had not time to make any reflections on it ; mr. Kelsey came presently down follow'd by his lady, a very lovely woman, indeed ; but seem'd greatly disconcerted : Jemmy advanced to pay her the civilities of a stranger, which, in spite of the confusion she was in, she receiv'd with the utmost sweetnes and good breeding, and they all sat down to table.

The first course was served up in an instant ; the garnishing of the dishes was elegant enough and inviting to the appetite, as doubtless what they contain'd would also have been, if not so much prolong'd beyond the necessary time : mr. Kelsey stuck his fork first into one thing and then into another, then threw it down, bit his lips, and seem'd in very great emotions.

Jemmy could be at no loss to guess the occasion ; and, to palliate the discontent he saw him in, help'd himself pretty plentifully out of that dish which was nearest to him ; but never was any thing so spoil'd, the truffles, morelles, artichokes, and other such things as should embellish the sauce were in a manner dissolv'd in it, and the meat itself wanted little of being so too, so that nothing but the bones discovered what it was.

Yet Jemmy fell to eating heartily, crying it was very fine, that it was dress'd exactly to his taste ; but this politeness in him did not restore the good humour of his friend ; the lady too was in some pain on seeing the ill effects which her staying too long in the closet had produced ; and, addressing herself to Jemmy,

‘ I am

‘ I am afraid, sir, said she, that your
‘ complaisance at this time gets the better
‘ of your sincerity ; what is here is very
‘ much over done ; but I hope we shall
‘ not find every thing so.’

As she ended these words a servant set a fine hare upon the table, and Mr. Kelsey perhaps flattering himself that his wife might be a true prophetess on this occasion, took up his knife and fork once more, in order to carve ; but the skin was so dried by being kept at a distance from the fire, that he found some difficulty to penetrate it, and when with much labour he had done so, the flesh beneath fell spontaneously from the bones, and indeed was almost fit for pulverizing.

Mr. Kelsey, who was naturally fiery, and apt to kindle on every little provocation, now lost all patience ; he flung the dish from him with such a vehemence, that but for the footman’s agility in catching it between his hands it must have fallen on the floor.

The lady, who was all confusion, said she was sorry and ashamed that it had happened so : ‘ S’death, madam, cry’d he, starting from the table, does it ever happen otherwise ? if you had even
‘ common

common decency, you would not treat me in this manner: can you find no time to pray but just when dinner is coming upon table? must my appetite continually be starved, my peace destroyed, my reputation scandalized, my friends affronted, and all through your unseasonable devotion?

‘ It is mighty well, my dear, reply’d she rising, it is mighty well; but I shall say no more; it is from heaven alone that I must seek support, under the ill humour and intemperance of a husband: then turning to Jemmy, ask’d his pardon for what had past, and went hastily out of the room with eyes all bathed in tears.

‘ Would to heaven I had never seen your face,’ cry’d mr. Kelsey furiously, and stamping with his foot as she was going out; but she took no notice either of his words or actions, and pass’d on as fast as she could: he continued walking about the room with gestures which evidently denoted the inward rage he was possess’d of, while Jemmy labour’d, tho’ for some time in vain, to convince him that he was in the wrong to put himself into such agitations on account of an accident.

‘ Call it not accident, mr. Jeffamy,’
‘ reply’d he, what you have now been
‘ witness of has been almost every day
‘ repeated ever since our marriage. Oh,
‘ continued he, almost raving, — how I
‘ could curse the hour, — the day, — the
‘ institution, — sacred as it is call’d, that
‘ join’d together two such opposites ?’

At last, however, the consideration he had for his friend got the better of the resentment he had against his wife, and setting down again and making Jemmy do so also : ‘ I know not, said he, whe-
‘ ther I shall ever be forgiven for the
‘ rudeness I have been guilty of ; you
‘ have, indeed, suffer’d too much through
‘ the folly of my wife, and I ought not
‘ to have prolong’d your pittance by my
‘ ill humour, notwithstanding the justifi-
‘ ableness of it had, I been alone.’

He then, without waiting for Jemmy’s reply, call’d to the butler and ask’d him if there were any cold meats in the house that might supply the deficiency they had sustain’d : the man on this ran down stairs, and presently return’d follow’d by another servant with a large ham, of which a very little had been cut. ‘ Come
‘ my

my dear friend, said mr. Kelsey, a cold repast is better than none at all ; this we had yesterday and could not be spoil'd, tho' the chickens about it fell to pieces of themselves, like the hare you just now saw,'

He said no more, but fell heartily on the ham before them ; Jemmy, who for all his complaisance had made but a half dinner, follow'd his example; and a dessert, consisting of tarts, pitty-patties, Jellies, cuits, and such like things, being afterwards placed upon the table, neither of these gentlemen had any reason to complain of their bad living that day.

When the cloth and servants were withdrawn, and the bottle and the glasses were the sole witnesses of their conversation, Jemmy finding the other was now in a disposition to bear it, began to rally him a little on the subject of his late diffiulties : ' Faith, reply'd mr. Kelsey, I have a true English stomach of my own, and cannot bear the least disappointment in victuals ; and this fervour of devotion takes my wife at such odd periods, that whether I have company, or am oblig'd to go out on business at an appointed hour, never can be certain that

‘ dinner

• dinner will be served according to the
• time.

• This unhappy humour in her, con-
• tinued he, it is that drives me so much
• abroad, I am compell'd by it to en-
• tertain my friends at a tavern, to trans-
• act all my affairs there ; and sometimes
• indeed, to refresh my own fenses with
• peace, and a bit of meat dress'd as it
• ought to be. How is it possible I should
• love home, when the very person in
• whose power it chiefly is to render it
• agreeable, exercises that power rather
• to create disgust than liking ? I once
• loved her, and none but she herself
• could have wean'd my heart from the
• tender passion I had for her ; but be-
• sides, whenever I complain of what you
• have seen, and some other irregularities
• in domestic life, she burils into tears
• and reproaches ; accuses me of unkind-
• ness, of intemperance, of prophaneſſ to
• heaven, of regarding too much the
• things of this world, and such like ſtuff,
• which if I fly to avoid, I am at least
• justified in the poet's words.

Clamours our privacies uneasy make,
Birds leave their nests disturb'd, and
beasts their haunts forſake.

Jemmy

Jemmy, who could find little to say in the defence of mrs. Kelfsey, and had too much complaisance and good nature to say any thing against her, artfully waved the conversation and started more agreeable subjects, between which and the bottle they pass'd the time till the hour arrived which call'd them to the concert.

This being an entertainment adapted to the taste of both these gentlemen, 'tis not to be doubted but the pleasure they received in it attoned for all the mortifications of the preceding day; but, as it presented nothing material enough to acquaint the reader with, we shall make no further mention of it.





C H A P. XVI.

Treats only on such matters as it is highly probable some readers will be apt to say might have been recited in a more laconic manner, if not totally omitted ; but as there are others, the author imagines much the greater number, who may be of a different opinion, it is judged proper that the majority should be obliged.

JEMMY, to whom the riddle of mr. Kelsey's disagreement with his wife was now fully explain'd, no sooner found himself at home and alone, than he began to make the serious reflections both on the accident he had been witness of, and the real source from whence such unfortunate effects were originally derived.

‘ It is not, said he within himself, it is not youth, beauty, wealth, nor even a mutual affection in the parties before marriage, that is sufficient to constitute their happiness, when once enter'd into that state ; neither mr. Kelsey nor his wife are wanting in any of those endowments or accomplishments which one should think

think necessary to endear them to each other ; yet how miserable are they ! it must therefore be, that a conformity of principles, a parity of sentiments and humours, and a certain sympathy of soul, ought to be the first links in the hymeneal chain ; and without them, all the others fall to the ground and have no power to bind.

‘ I think, continued he, that my friend has every requisite for making a good husband, were it his lot to have been united to a woman of his own gay temper ; and the lady, who now creates such uneasiness both to herself and him, would certainly have made no less excellent a wife had she been married to an enthusiast.’

On reasoning farther, under various discontents that so frequently distract’d the felicity of conjugal life, he concluded, that good nature and similitude of dispositions, tho’ the last things consider’d, and seldom if ever enquired into by the persons about to be united, were indeed the chief ingredients to make their future happiness.

These considerations led him into an examination of Jenny’s behaviour, even

from her infancy, with much greater attention than ever he had done before ; and the more he did so now, the less he could find to wish were chang'd ; nothing had ever appear'd in her which seem'd to him to stand in need of the least rectification ; she had never betray'd a too strong attachment to any one thing ; no caprice, no whimsical flights, no affectation, no pride of exciting the envy of her own sex, or of giving pain to those of the other ; in all her words and actions she preserved the happy medium of neither being too gay and giddy, nor too fullen and reserv'd ; nor was all this mere outward shew ; he could not suspect her of disguise, as he had known her before she could arrive at the power, even if she had the will, of pretending to be other than she really was.

Though he was in no haste to be married ; yet, as he intended nothing more than being so, one time or other, great cause had he to thank heaven for being so peculiarly propitious in the lot ordain'd for him ; nor was he insensible or ungrateful for the bounty, and had so true an esteem and affection for his dear Jenny, that we may almost give it to the reader for a certainty, that no temptation whatever could have made him entertain the least

least thought of any other woman for a wife.

He went pretty early the next morning to her apartment, which he seldom fail'd to do, when he had no farther business than to give her the bon jour ; but never when he had any thing to communicate in relation to the agreement made between them : he knew indeed, that she had very little occasion for any lessons of improvement from the faults of others ; but he took an infinite pleasure in hearing the judicious observations she always made on every occurrence that presented itself to her.

He met her at the door, her chair waited, and she was just ready to step into it, ' You are going out, I perceive, said he, ' and I will not detain you : ' ' Indeed but ' you shall, reply'd she ; I was only go- ' ing to chapel, which I can do as well ' in the afternoon.

‘ But how, rejoin'd he, shall I answer to ‘ myself for being an impediment to any ‘ act of religion ? ’ Religion, cried she, does ‘ not enjoin us to be rude or unkind to ‘ our friends ; and I know not if a just ‘ observance of the duties of social life ‘ be not a more acceptable sacrifice to the

‘ Deity than all the oraifons our lips can
‘ utter.’

She said no more ; but having dismiss'd the chairmen made Jemmy go up stairs, where she instantly follow'd him ; as soon as they were sat down, ‘ I dined yester-
‘ day, said he smiling, with a lady who
‘ would have thought herself guilty of
‘ the extremest impiety and prophaness
‘ to have shewn half that complaifance to
‘ her husband, which I have just now.re-
‘ ceived from you.

‘ She must then have very little affec-
‘ tion for him indeed, replied Jenny; and
‘ also be equally ignorant of the laws of
‘ the institution by which, as I take it, she
‘ is bound to oblige and to obey him
‘ in all reasonable things ; but I see, con-
‘ tinued she, by your countenance that
‘ you are big with some new intelligence ;
‘ so pray don't delay letting me have it.’

Jemmy then made her an exact recital of the entertainment he had met with at mr. Kelsey's ; the brulee between the husband and the wife ; the impatience of the one, and the provocation given for it by the other : Jenny laugh'd heartily at the beginning of this story, but grew more grave towards the latter end of it, and perceiving

perceiving he had concluded, gave her sentiments on what he had been telling her in these terms :

‘ Can any one take this for piety, said she? I would not be so uncharitable as to think mrs. Kelsey an hypocrite, but certainly such a behaviour has nothing in it of the air of true devotion.’ To which he reply’d, that he must do her the justice to believe, from what he could gather from the discourse he had afterwards with her husband, who was not in a disposition to be more favourable than the occasion requir’d, that all the mistakes she is guilty of proceed intirely from too warm a zeal in what she thinks the duties of religion.

‘ There are hours enough, said she, to be spent in prayer, without breaking in upon those which the œconomy of the family requires; I am far from depreciating religious worship, but there are times for all things, and mrs. Kelsey makes choice of such as are so utterly improper, as if it really arises from piety, renders it, in my opinion, such a kind of piety as has little merit in it.

‘ I am rather afraid, continued she after a pause, that through sloth, and a cer-

‘ tain indolence of nature, she neglects
‘ paying that tribute to heaven which is
‘ due from every reasonable creature at
‘ fit times ; and at length, remembering
‘ her omission, runs to wipe off one fault
‘ by committing a still greater ; for I would
‘ fain know, whether driving a husband
‘ to the extremes you say mr. Kelsey is
‘ guilty of, be not a much worse error
‘ than even not praying at all ?

‘ For my part, added she with a more
‘ gay air, I should have no notion of sa-
‘ ving my own soul by doing what I saw
‘ would infallibly ruin another’s ; especially
‘ that of a person in whose happiness, both
‘ here and hereafter, I ought to take so
‘ great an interest.’

Jemmy had a very high regard both for the mysteries and duties of reveal’d religion ; though, like most other gay gentlemen of his age, he was little practis’d in the rules : but had he been a more strict observer of church discipline, he could not well have disapproved of the sentiments Jenny had declared ; he told her she had argued like a casuist, and that he was sure there was never a Clergyman in England but must agree with her on this point.

‘ I do not know that, answer’d she; but I can tell you I durst not speak in the manner I have done, without thinking I had sufficient authority for it, from a little account given to my father, by a very learned and worthy divine, of one of his parishioners; I was very young when I heard it, but as it has made a lasting impression upon my mind, if you will afford me your attention I will repeat it.’

Jemmy having assured her she would confer a very great obligation on him by so doing, she went on with her discourse in this manner :

‘ The reverend gentleman I have mention’d, said she, was not only an excellent preacher but also an excellent man; all his actions were so many precepts, and his example a kind of living law; for there was no virtue which he laboured to inspire in others that he did not in the highest degree put in practice himself.

‘ He frequently favour’d my father with his company, continued she, they were extremely intimate, and when the two good old gentlemen got together there never was any gap in conversa-

tion: one evening, in particular, he came to our house and my father, who was at church that day, and found a very thin congregation, was beginning to lament to him the decay of religion; to which the doctor reply'd in these terms; I think I remember his very words.

‘ Aye, mr. Jeffamy, said he, I am afraid indeed that religion is at a very low ebb at this time; but we must not always impute the want of it to those who we do not see constantly at public worship, even though we should know they were not detain'd from it by any infirmity either of mind or of body; there are a thousand accidents which may intervene, and withhold them from the discharge of this duty; nay, in some cases it may so happen that it is even laudable to be absent: you look surprised, mr. Jeffamy, continued he, perceiving my father did so; but I can easily convince you of the truth of what I say: I came now from visiting a lady, who till within this month, or thereabouts, has not been at church for near seven years; though before that time no body more constantly attended; and yet I firmly believe that there is not a better or a more pious woman in the world.’

These last words were far from lessening the astonishment my father had been in from the beginning of this discourse ; but he would not interrupt the doctor, who went on thus :

‘ To ease you of that suspence which I find I have raised in you, said he, know, mr. Jessamy, that this excellent lady flew not from divine service to pursue the pleasures of the town, nor to gratify any sensual inclination of her own, but to shut herself up in a close room with an aged parent, who, press'd beneath the weight of years and infirmities, unable to go out herself, and equally unwilling to receive any visits from those who knew her in a more sanguine state, had no consolation but in the dutiful cares of this beloved daughter, who was continually employ'd about her administering every thing in her power for her relief.’

‘ It is impossible for me, said Jenny, pursuing the thread of her discourse, to remember half the encomiums he made on this act of filial piety ; but this I know, that I have ever since been fully convinced, that while we are here upon earth all the prayers we can make to heaven will be insufficient to attone for neglecting

‘ neglecting to discharge, as well as is in
‘ our power, the duties of our several
‘ stations.’

Jemmy was now about to tell her how much his opinion, in this point, coincided with what she had deliver'd ; but she happen'd to be in a very talkative humour, and this being a subject which in her serious moments had frequently occur'd to her, she would not quit it for the sake of hearing any praises given to herself.

‘ There are some people, resumed she, ‘ who are hypocrites without knowing ‘ themselves that they are so ; they fast, ‘ they pray incessantly, they are abun- ‘ dant in giving to charitable uses, and do ‘ many other great and laudable actions ; ‘ but then they do them not so much for ‘ the sake of the religion that enjoins us ‘ to do all the good we can, as for the ‘ sake of gratifying their own vanity in ‘ being able to perform more than ~~their~~ ‘ neighbours.’

‘ This is ostentation, cried Jemmy, in- ‘ terrupting her, and I am afraid that too ‘ many of those great actions, so hyper- ‘ bolically extoll'd in panegyrick, if ‘ search'd into the bottom, would be ‘ found to proceed from no other source.’

‘ Ostentation,

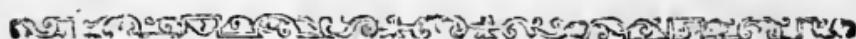
‘ Ostentation, answer’d she, is different from the propensity I mean ; ostentation, as I take it, is rather an ambition of appearing better in the eyes of others than we either are or will take any pains to be in fact ; but what I am speaking of is an innate triumph of the heart ; a mental exultation within ourselves in the imagination that we in reality excel other people ; and this I think may be call’d a spiritual pride.

‘ I have heard such strange stories, continued Jenny, such unaccountable instances in relation to this same spiritual pride among the nuns abroad, as I should have look’d upon to have been mere inventions to depreciate and ridicule that way of worship, if they had not been solemnly averr’d to me by a lady who is herself a roman catholic, was two years a pensioner in a monastery at Paris, and an eye witness of the truth of what she said.’

Here she was preparing to repeat some of those particulars which the lady had made her acquainted with ; but was prevented by a servant who came into the room to call her down to dinner, on which Jemmy, as she was a boarder, took his

his leave probably with less reluctance if the subject they had been engaged in had happened to be one of a more entertaining nature.

Nor will the reader find any reason to be greatly dissatisfied at the breaking off a conversation which could be little improving, as an excess of devotion is not among the reigning errors of the present times.



C H A P. XVII.

Will in all likelihood appear, to the greatest part of our readers, a good deal more interesting than the former.

AFTER that conversation which had engross'd the whole of the preceding chapter, a multiplicity of engagements, of one sort or other, so took up Jemmy's time, that he could not find one hour to visit his beloved and most deserving mistress for three days successively; but on the evening of the latter he found, on his coming home, a little billet from her which had been left for him in the afternoon, the contents whereof were as follows :

To

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

Dear JEMMY,

“ **A** Proposal has been made to me,
“ which before I accept of am de-
“ sirous to acquaint you with ; if this is
“ so fortunate as to find you at home
“ shall be glad of seeing you this even-
“ ing ; if not, expect you will not fail
“ of calling on me in the morning as
“ early as you can ; because I have pro-
“ mised to give my final answer some
“ time to-morrow. I am,

With all sincerity,

Dear Jemmy,

Yours, &c. &c.

J. JESSAMY.

On the first mention of this billet, after an absence of so unusual a length between these two lovers, when in the same town together, I dare believe that many of my female readers expected to find it fill'd either with reproaches or complaints ; or, perhaps with a mixture of both ; but Jenny was of a different complexion from the generality of her sex, she could love without anxiety, and glad as she was whenever she saw the object of her passion, was

was never angry or unhappy when she saw him not.

If all women could bring themselves to behave in the manner Jenny did, I cannot but think they would find their account in it, not only in the tranquility of their own minds, but also in rendering more permanent the affection of the man they loved ; doubts, suspicions, and jealousies, though arising from a tender cause, frequently hurry the person possess'd of them into such furious marks of resentment, as, if the lover has the least inclination to break off, gives him a fair pretence of doing so.

The guilty heart, which perhaps might be in time reclaim'd by its own consciousness of being in the wrong, is often hardened by unbraiding ; there is a certain pride and obstinacy in some natures which will not bear reproof, and makes them persist in the errors which themselves condemn, only because they are condemned by others.

But if the man, who knows he justly merits all the reproaches he can be loaded with, can so ill endure rebuke, how shall the innocent, the faithful lover support it ; to be accused of a crime his
very

very apprehension shudders at, to be treated by the woman he adores with full coldness, and with causeless testimonies of suspicion, must give him the most poignant inquietude ; and though he may submit to it at first, and be even pleased, as imagining such a behaviour an indication of the most tender passion in his mistress ; yet, when he finds all his endeavours to calm the tempest in her soul are fruitless, he will at last, especially if he is a man of sense and spirit, be wearied out, as the poet truly says,

Small jealousies, indeed, inflame desire ;
Too great, not fan, but quite put out
the fire.

Or as another, in my opinion, more emphatically expresses his sense of the matter :

'Tis just, when doubts without foundation grow,
Those who believe us false should find us so.

But I have seen too much how far the power of jealousy, a passion truly call'd the poison of love, operates on a female mind, not to be sensible that all the advice I can give on this occasion will be entirely thrown

thrown away ; and that I have more reason to ask pardon of my fair readers for this digression, than to flatter myself they will be any way profited by it.

To return therefore to the business of my history ; it was too late when Jemmy received the abovemention'd summons from his mistress to attend her that night ; but he comply'd with it very early the next morning, according to her request ; and indeed much sooner than she could reasonably have expected he would be stirring.

He found her incompass'd with trunks and ban-boxes, and very busy in packing up her apparel : ‘ You have found me ‘ preparing for a journey, cry’d she, which ‘ notwithstanding I would neither resolve ‘ upon, nor promise to take without ‘ receiving your approbation of it.’

‘ You surprise me, said he,—a journey ; and wait for my approbation of it.’—‘ Yes,—replyed she, it was to that end I sent for you in such a hurry ; but ‘ sit down and I will tell you all.’—Jemmy then took a chair, and she placing herself in another opposite to him, began as follows :

‘ You

‘ You must know, said she, that I
 ‘ din’d yesterday, by invitation, at lady
 ‘ Speck’s ; — her sister, miss Wingman,
 ‘ was with her ; they are both going to
 ‘ Bath to-morrow, and were very urgent
 ‘ with me to accompany them : — As I
 ‘ never saw that place, and have heard
 ‘ so much of it, I must confess I should
 ‘ be well enough pleased to go thither ;
 ‘ especially when I have the opportunity
 ‘ of being escorted by three or four stout
 ‘ fellows with fire-arms, by way of de-
 ‘ fence from the gentlemen collectors of
 ‘ the road.’

‘ I know, replied Jemmy, that lady
 ‘ Speck will abate nothing that she thinks
 ‘ becoming her quality, and always tra-
 ‘ vels in a genteel manner. — And so you
 ‘ set out to-morrow ?

‘ I do not tell you I shall set out at all,
 ‘ answer’d she, for I am not yet deter-
 ‘ mined.’ — Jemmy then ask’d her on
 what motive she hesitated.’ — ‘ Can you
 ‘ not guess, — cry’d she, — looking kindly
 ‘ on him ?’ ‘ No upon my honour, said he,
 ‘ Then you are not so just to me as you
 ‘ ought to be, — returned she gravely ; —
 ‘ you might have thought I would agree
 ‘ to nothing of this nature, without ha-
 ‘ ving first consulted you.’

Me,

‘ Me, cry’d Jemmy, did you not tell
‘ me you should like to go?’ — ‘ Yes,
‘ replied she, but as I suppose, according
‘ to the footing on which we now stand,
‘ that it will be my duty hereafter to sub-
‘ mit my inclinations to the regulation of
‘ your will, I thought it proper to give
‘ you a previous sample how easy it will
‘ be for me to do so. In fine, my dear
‘ Jemmy, I will not go without your
‘ consent; nor even without your appro-
‘ bation.’

‘ This is indeed a proof of tenderness,
‘ cry’d he, which I could not expect, nor
‘ can any way deserve, unless it be by
‘ joining my entreaties with the ladies,
‘ that you will not refuse their request.’
In speaking these words he rose from his
seat and snatch’d her to his arm with an
infinity of transport and affection.

‘ Then you are willing, said she, re-
‘ turning him his embrace, to part with
‘ me for the long space of six or seven
‘ weeks at least? for they do not purpose
‘ to return sooner.’

‘ I will not pretend to be so much the
‘ master of myself, said he, still holding
‘ her by the hand, as to be perfectly con-
‘ tent during such a separation as you
‘ have

have mention'd ; but I can see no reason to put my patience to so severe a trial ; I might follow you directly, but it happens unluckily that my steward whom I have sent for comes to town to-morrow, and the affairs I have to settle with him will detain me for some days ; but I believe I may flatter myself with seeing my dear Jenny at Bath within a fortnight at the very farthest.'

' May I then expect you ', cryed she with a voice which express'd the utmost satisfaction. ' You may not only expect but depend upon my coming ; ' answer'd he, ' you have the greatest security for it that is in nature, which is that of my own inclination.' — ' Believe me, my dear Jenny, that I never was easy when absent from you for any length of time ; — the thoughts of you still mingled with all the little sports and recreations of my childhood ; and now when riper years have made me more truly sensible, of the perfections you are mistress of, I feel it would be an utter impossibility to live without seeing you.'

She answer'd these fond expressions with others no less endearing ; after which, he told her, that since he agreed to her going, and had promised to follow, she would

would send immediately, and let lady Speck know she should be ready to attend her ladyship next morning.

Jemmy then left her to do as she had said, and went home to dress; but return'd in the evening, and staid supper with her, when nothing passed of consequence enough to trouble the reader with, except his renewing the assurances he before had given her of seeing her at Bath as soon as his busines's was dispatch'd.

C H A P. XVIII.

Contains a brief account of Jenny's journey to Bath; and also some passages which happened on her arrival there.

J ENNY, though she had all the reason imaginable to be pleased with this excursion, not only in the gratification of her curiosity in the sight of a place she had heard so much of, but also in the society of the company she went with; of whose characters it is highly proper to give the reader some account.

Lady Speck had been the wife of a person of great distinction, whom she lost in the first year of their marriage; but as love had not been in the least consulted by either party in the formation of that union, so grief had for his death little effect, either on the delicacy of her complexion, or the sprightliness of her humour; she had also some consolations which many widows want; for besides a very large jointure settled on her by her marriage articles, she was now in possession of an estate of near two thousand pounds a year, by the demise of an uncle.

The age of this lady did not exceed twenty-five; miss Wingman, who was her sister by her mother's side, was six or seven years younger, and a great heiress; both of them had a great deal of wit and vivacity, but though they saw all the gay company in town, and convers'd freely, neither of them had been guilty of any thing that could call their conduct in question, or cast a blemish on their reputations.

These ladies, to whose characters I should also have added that of being very agreeable in their persons, could not fail of attracting a great number of admirers; and as their going to Bath was no secret, those

those who were most eager to prove the sincerity of their attachment, thought they could not do it a better way than by following them.

But there were two who distinguish'd themselves from all the rest of their competitors, by a particular act of knight errantry, these were mr. Lovegrove and lord Huntly; the one had for some time made his addresses to lady Speck, and the other either was, or pretended to be passionately devoted to her sister.

These gentlemen, who were intimate friends, and the mutual confidants of each other's passion, contrived a little plot of love and gallantry between them, the idea of which gave them as much pleasure as they doubted not but their mistresses would receive in the execution of it.

Having taken care to inform themselves as exactly as possible of the time in which the ladies were to set out, they left London some hours sooner, and arrived at Maidenhead early enough to accomplish what they had projected.

They put up at the first great inn in the town, and having given orders for a very elegant dinner to be prepared, post-
ed.

ed themselves in a room that looked towards the road, that they might be ready to intercept the ladies, in case they should not intend to bait at this place.

This precaution was necessary, for lady Speck's Jehu was driving furiously on, as they generally do when passing through any town or village where they have not orders to stop.—The gentlemen saw them at a distance, and immediately fallied out. Lord Huntley's two servants laid hold of the bridles of the fore horses, and one of Mr. Lovegrove's, with an authoritative voice, call'd to the coachman to draw back the reins, their principals at the same time advanced at the coach door, and accosted those within it, in these terms :

‘ We arrest you, ladies, in the name of
‘ love, said lord Huntley ; that God, so
‘ universally obeyed, has commission'd us,
‘ his faithful votaries, to stop your far-
‘ ther progress without his special leave ;
‘ —Ceres and Bacchus are too of the par-
‘ ty, added mr. Lovegrove, and it would
‘ be in vain for you to think of resisting
‘ their united influence.’

That momentary surprise which the ladies were in at the first stoppage of their coach vanish'd on the sight of the per-

sons who had occasion'd it ; and lady Speck, who happen'd to sit on that side where they were, answer'd with a great deal of spirit, ' We have nothing to do with the mischievous little deity ;—but as to Ceres and Bacchus, they are beneficent powers, and I think we ought to shew them some complaisance ; — What say you ladies ? ' continued she, turning to her sister and miss Jeffamy ; the latter of whom, being wholly unacquainted with the gentlemen, made no reply, nor indeed had she time ; for miss Wingman presently took up the Word, and said, ' Nay sister, I think we have no choice to make ; we are taken prisoners and must submit to the laws of the conquerors. '

The coach door was then open'd, the ladies were handed out and conducted into a room, where they found the table-cloth laid, and side-board set forth with as much elegance and propriety as if they had been in their own houses ; but as they came somewhat sooner than the gentlemen expected, mr. Lovegrove left lord Huntly to entertain them for a moment, while he went down to give orders for hastening dinner.

As he was returning from this little expedition a post-chaise, attended by one servant, came galloping into the yard of the inn ; the person who alighted from it was sir Robert Manley, a very great acquaintance of mr. Lovegrove's ; they immediately saw each other, and mutually advanced with open arms.

On putting the question to each other concerning the rout they were pursuing, Lovegrove related in a few words the method that lord Huntly and himself had taken, to ingratiate themselves into the favour of their mistresses.

‘ You are happy fellows, said sir Robert, smiling, I am for Bath too ; but you see how forlorn and solitary my journey will be in comparison of yours, who carry along with you those pleasures I am obliged to go in search of.’

Mr. Lovegrove then told him, there was a third lady in company, ‘ who young and handsome as she is, said he, is like to have but a dull time of it, as my lord and I have our particular attachments ; therefore, if I could prevail on you to join us, we should be all right, and more at liberty to indulge our several inclinations.’

‘ I understand you, replied the baronet, and was never backward in my life to come to the relief of a distressed fair one; I shall find something or other to say to her, while you are entertaining your mistresses.’

On this the other purposed that he should prosecute his journey with them, in lord Huntley’s landau; to which he also agreeing, discharg’d in the same instant the post-chaise that had brought him thither, and they went up stairs together to join the company.

‘ I have staid a long time, said mr. Lovegrove, presenting sir Robert, but have brought my excuse in my hand.’— This gentleman was particularly known to lord Huntley, and no stranger to lady Speck and her sister, and was received by them with all imaginable demonstrations of satisfaction; but Jenny, not having the least personal acquaintance with him, said no more than what bare civility demanded from her to a man of his rank and character.

The conversation, during the time of dinner, becoming extremely gay and spirituous, our young heroine however bore a part in it, with so much wit and vivacity,

city, which, added to her other charms, could not fail of captivating almost any heart, not already strongly prepossess'd in favour of another object; — his lordship and mr. Lovegrove were defended, not only by the ideas, but also by the presence of their mistresses; but what the heart of sir Robert Manley felt on the sudden rush of such united perfection, will very shortly be discover'd.

It would be quite needless to tell the reader that the table was elegantly serv'd, for no one can suppose that gentleman, who had taken so much pains to acquire an opportunity of entertaining their mistresses, would omit any thing for that purpose which the place they were in was capable of furnishing.

The same spirit of gallantry continued during the whole journey; — wherever they baited, which was as often as any agreeable prospect invited; the ladies had nothing to pay, either for themselves, their servants, or their horses; — as they travell'd very leisurely they found, on their arrival at Bath, their women attendants, who had come down with their luggage in the stage coach, had been there some hours before them, and prepar'd every thing necessary for their reception at the

It being towards evening when they came into the town, the gentlemen, after seeing their fair companions safe into their apartments, withdrew, on pretence of leaving them to take that repose which the delicacy of their constitutions might require; but, in reality, to go about the execution of a project they had all three beenconcerting on the road, and which they imagined would give the ladies a second surprise, no less agreeable than the former.

They had been told there were a company of players, and a tolerable good band of musick, at that time in town; and as these people were to be employed for what they had design'd, they went directly to the theatre, and hired such of them as they found most fit for their purpose; which was no other than to compliment the ladies on their arrival, in a manner altogether new and unexpected.

Lord Huntley, who was a native of the kingdom of Ireland, had brought over with him a little musical interlude, which had been exhibited at a marriage feast where his lordship had been a guest.

As

As they were upon the subject of gallantry, he proposed to Mr. Lovegrove to entertain the ladies with this piece, by way of giving them their welcome to Bath, in case they should be able to procure people to perform the parts.

The personages which composed the drama, were LOVE, HONOUR and PLEASURE.—Mr. Lovegrove was charm'd with the thought ; and Sir Robert Manley said, that nothing could be more suitably adapted to the design they were at present upon.

The play-house, as I have already said, supply'd them with performers better than they could even have hoped for in that place ; — a flaxen hair'd boy, with sparkling eyes, — cheeks which imitated the new blown rose, and an admirable voice, was chose to represent the GOD OF SOFT DESIRES. — A man of a most graceful aspect, and who had great skill in musick, was to appear in the character of HONOUR. — A very beautiful young woman, and who also sung well, was to assume the name of PLEASURE ; and seemed, by her looks and manner, to be capable of giving a very just idea of the character she bore.

These people, properly habited and equipp'd for the several parts they were to act, and attended by musicians with various kinds of instruments, were all placed in a close arbour, at the farther end of the garden belonging to the house where the ladies lodged ; the mistress of which lord Huntley had acquainted with the design of surprising the ladies with a morning's entertainment, and conducted them in through a back door with secrecy, according to the directions given her by his lordship.

Every thing being thus prepared, a servant was dispatch'd to the ladies, with the compliments of lord Huntley, mr. Lovegrove, and sir Robert Manley ; and entreating permission to wait on them, which being granted, they all immediately went ; — the latter of these gentlemen having, perhaps, as strong an attachment to be of the party as either of the former.

Scarce were the first salutations over, when the concert began, with an overture of wind and string instruments, accompanied with an harpsicord ; — the ladies started ; — ‘ Bless me ! ’ cry'd one ; ‘ — What's this ? — musick, — ’ cry'd another, — and so near us, — where can it come from ? ’ ‘ The

‘ The sounds, said mr. Lovegrove, ‘ seem to me to proceed from behind the house.—Certainly ’tis so, rejoin’d lord Huntley,—I fancy, ladies, you will hear it more distinctly in the next room.’ In speaking these words, without staying for permission to do so, he threw open the folding doors and they all ran in.

But how prodigiously were the fair audience surprised, when, on drawing up the windows, they saw the garden planted on each side with musicians, who all, at sight of them bow’d with the most profound reverence almost to the earth, in token that it was to them their present labours were devoted.

‘ What can this mean? said lady Speck. — Here are those coming, replied mr. Lovegrove, who I believe will explain the mystery.’ There was time for no more on either side: HONOUR rush’d forth from his leafy covert, conducting little CUPID by the hand, and both advanced together to the middle of the alley; where, after making their obeisance to the windows, they began a duet, expressing the advantages each of them received by the fellowship of the other. LOVE confess’d that his Darts carried

gall instead of honey into the heart they reach'd, when not under the direction of HONOUR ;—and HONOUR acknowledged, he never appear'd so truly amiable as when accompanied by LOVE.

They had no sooner ceased than PLEASURE came tripping out, and told them, in a cantato, whenever they two were united, she must necessarily follow with all the sweets of nature.—They made her suitable answers in recitativo.—After which the whole was concluded with a grand chorus.

This entertainment had all the effect that could be wish'd for by the contrivers of it ;—Jenny was charmed with the elegance of the design, — miss Wingman with the words, and lady Speck with the musick.—In fine, they all seem'd to vye with each other in giving the greatest praises to it.

While they were thus expressing their satisfaction, the gentlemen put their heads out of the window, and lord Huntley, in the name of the rest, said to the actors :—‘ We shall see you this evening at the theatre, and make our acknowledgements for the trouble we have given you ; in the mean time you may carry

‘ carry with you the glory of knowing,
‘ your performance has been approv’d of
‘ by the finest ladies in the world.’

On this the players, after making a low bow to the company, retired, and were conducted out of the garden by the gentlewoman of the house, through the same gate by which they had enter’d.

A piece of gallantry, so flattering to the vanity of the young and gay, could not but receive from lady Speck and her sister, all the retributions it demanded from them; — and Jenny, though far from thinking herself a party interested in it, said a thousand fine things in its praise.

Charm’d as the lovers were with the gracious acceptance their mistresses vouchsafed to what they had done, their politeness reminded them, that they had already transgress’d the usual boundaries of a morning’s visit; therefore they took leave till a more convenient hour of the day should permit them to return.

C H A P. XIX.

Treats of many things, which though they may seem at present less affecting than some others, yet are very necessary for the reader to be acquainted with, before we proceed farther into the history.

YOUTH, beauty, and wit, have deservedly a very powerful influence over the human heart; and every day, experience obliges us to own, that wealth, without the aid of any of these, is of itself sufficient to captivate; — it supplies all other defects; — it smooths the wrinkles of fourscore; — it shapes deformity into comeliness, and gives graces to idiotism itself; as it is said by the inimitable Shakespear:

Gold ! yellow, glittering, precious gold !
 Gold ! that will make black, white ; foul,
 fair ; wrong, right ;
 Base, noble ; old, young ; cowards, va-
 liant !

But when the gifts of nature are join'd with those of fortune, how strong is the traction

attraction ! — how irresistible is the force of such united charms ! according to the words of the humorous poet :

Hence 'tis, no lover has the power
T' enforce a desperate amour,
As he that has two strings to's bow,
And burns for love and money too.

We ought not therefore, methinks, to judge with too much severity on the vanity of a fine lady ; who seeing herself perpetually surrounded with a crowd of lovers, each endeavouring to excel all his rivals in the most extravagant demonstrations of affection, can hardly believe she deserves not some part, at least, of the admiration she receives.

But what pretence soever we may make to excuse the weakness of exulting in a multiplicity of lovers, it is still a weakness which all imaginable care ought to be taken to subdue ; as it may draw on the most fatal consequences both on the admirers and admired : — What duels have been fought ! — What torrents of blood have been shed in the mad-brain'd fury of jealous rivalry ! — And how often have we seen the idol fair herself, who lately triumph'd in the pains she gave, neglect-
ed

But this is only for such whom it may concern ; the ladies I am at present speaking of were of a different stamp ; lady Speck had something of a pretty particular nature, both in her humour and character, as the reader will hereafter be informed ; in the mean time must content himself with a small sketch of both.

She liked a freedom of conversation with the men, but then she liked that conversation should be general ; she took neither pride nor pleasure in the particular devoirs of those who profess'd themselves her lovers ; and the encouragement she gave to the addressees of mr. Lovegrove and others, was not the effect of any coquetry in her disposition, but was occasion'd merely by her policy, as she thought such a behaviour would be the best means to conceal a secret inclination she had entertain'd in favour of one ; which inclination many reasons forbid her to make known, or even to be guess'd at.

Miss Wingman was of a humour so very volatile, that it was quite out of her power to think seriously for a minute together on any one thing whatever, and love

love the least of all took up her attention ; — always pleased, — always happy, she neither plumed herself on the new conquests she acquired, nor regretted the loss of those slaves, who, weary of their bondage, shook off her chains.

As for the heroine of this history, her early engagement with Jemmy was so well known, that it had hitherto defended her from all attacks, either to put her constancy to the trial, or shew the world in what manner she would behave amidst a plurality of lovers.

But now the time was come in which this young lady was to give most substantial proofs, not only of her affection and fidelity to the man whom she looked up on ordained to be her future husband, but also of her generosity and gratitude to those to whose passion she had it not either in her power or inclination to make an adequate return.

As all the arts of love and wit were put in practice by lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove, in the court they made to their respective mistresses, sir Robert Manley thought it would ill become a man of his years and character to let a fine lady sit neglected by, especially one who appear'd so

But though the compliments he entertain'd her with had at first no other foundation than mere gallantry, yet the manner in which she received them, and the answers she gave, were such as would have rendered it impossible for him to have withstood the charms of her tongue, even had he been unsusceptible to those of her eyes.

In fine, none of the perfections she was endowed with were lost upon him ; he soon found the full effects of a passion he had been only sporting with, and might say with Cowley,

Unhurt, untouch'd, did I complain,
And terrify'd all others with my pain ;
But now I feel the mighty evil,
Ah there's no fooling with the devil :
In things where fancy much does reign
'Tis dangerous too cunningly to feign ;
The play at last a truth does grow,
And custom into nature go.

Love, tho' it may be counterfeited so
as not to be, without great penetration,
discover'd to be false, cannot, wherever it
is sincere, be wholly conceal'd ; sir Ro-
bert's

bert's two friends perceived the change in him before he was quite assur'd of it in himself : — they were a little pleasant with him on the occasion ; but at the same time acknowledged, that the beauty and merit of miss Jenny Jeffamy demanded all the respect that could be paid to her.

Sir Robert on this readily confess'd, that he had never seen a young lady whose person and accomplishments gave a more fair prospect of making compleatly happy the man who should possess her ; ‘ But, ‘ said he, I have been told somewhat of ‘ an engagement she is under, and I ‘ should be sorry to appear either unjust ‘ in attempting to invade the property ‘ of another, or so weak as to give up ‘ my heart entirely without a possibility ‘ of having it well receiv'd.’

Lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove were neither of them ignorant of what he meant ; but the former having heard, in casual conversation, some of those whispers which the artifices of Bellpine had circulated through almost all companies, cried hastily out, ‘ If a match between miss Jenny ‘ and a young heir of her own name, be ‘ the sole impediment to your making ‘ your addresses to her, I believe I may ‘ venture to assure you, from very good ‘ hands,

‘ hands, that it is quite broke off; and
‘ that for some time they have neither re-
‘ garded nor treated each other with any
‘ thing more than a bare civility.’

‘ Your lordship’s intelligence, said mr. Lovegrove, seems to me agreeable to reason on the nature of the thing; the marriage was agreed upon by their parents before the young people were capable of judging for themselves, and as now they are arrived at years of maturity, I see no cause, except a disinclination on the one side or the other for delaying the consummation of what was so long ago projected.’

People easily believe what they wish, and indeed there was so much appearance of reason in the inference mr. Lovegrove had drawn, that it is not to be wonder’d at that the young baronet readily gave into it.

But he was still better satisfied, when, after having declared how happy he should think himself in an assurance of Jenny’s heart being disengaged, mr. Lovegrove told him, that since he found he was so serious in the affair, he would speak to lady Speck, and endeavour to come at the certainty.

‘ And

‘ And I, cried lord Huntley, will
 ‘ found miss Wingman on the occasion ;
 ‘ I believe she will make no scruple to in-
 ‘ form what she knows of it ; and as she
 ‘ is nearer to her own years than her sis-
 ‘ ter may be supposed to be, yet deeper
 ‘ in her secrets and confidants.’

It would be superfluous to repeat the many retributions sir Robert made to the gentlemen on the friendly part they took in his interest ; so I shall only say, they were such as became the mouth of a man very much in love, and who scorn'd to make use of any dishonourable or ungenerous means for the attainment of his wishes.

C H A P. XX.

Is taken up with a conversation of very great importance.

NEITHER lady Speck nor her sister were ignorant of those reports which had been so maliciously spread, concerning a change in the sentiments of Jemmy ;— they had heard it averr'd by several of their acquaintances, as a thing past all dispute,

dispute; but as their fair friend had never made them the confidants of her imaginary misfortune, they thought it too tender and delicate a point to be touch'd upon in her presence, and had always carefully avoided giving her the least hint that they had been told of such a thing.

It was owing however merely to the esteem and friendship they had towards her, that had induced them to persuade her to accompany them to Bath, believing that the pleasures of that place might keep her from resenting too deeply an indignity which few women are able to support with patience.

Regarding her in the affectionate manner they did, it could not but afford them a good deal of satisfaction to be inform'd by lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove of the new conquest she had made; judging, as they reasonably might, that the offer of a heart, such as that of sir Robert Manley, would fully compensate for the loss they supposed she had sustain'd by the infidelity of Jemmy.

Both these ladies assured not only their lovers, but sir Robert himself, of the part they took in his interest, and that they would lay hold of the first opportunity to speak

speak to Jenny on the affair, in such terms as should seem to them most effectual to convince her that she ought not to slight a proposal which could not but prove for her honour and advantage to accept.

They were punctual to their promise; the next morning, as they were sitting all together at breakfast, lady Speck introduced what she intended to insinuate, by making some observations on the temper and behaviour of mankind in general; till by degrees she fell insensibly, as it were, and without seeming to have any design, into very great commendations of sir Robert Manley; saying, that she thought that he had more virtue and fewer faults, than most men of her acquaintance; and then ask'd Jenny what was her opinion of him.

‘Really, madam, replyed she, I pretend to very little judgment of mankind, especially in those I have known so short a time; but by what I have seen of sir Robert, he appears to me to have honour and good sense, and also to be well natur'd.’

‘You have named, said lady Speck, the three grand requisites for making a good husband; and I hope that the object

‘ject of his affections will soon be con-
vinced that he is possess’d of them, as
well as with an infinity of love.

‘Is sir Robert then about marrying,
demanded Jenny.—‘I cannot say abso-
lutely about it, return’d lady Speck;
for I am pretty certain he has not yet
assumed courage enough to make any
declaration of his passion; all I know
is, that he is most violently in love.’

‘He is undoubtedly a very fine Gen-
tleman,’ said Jenny, and if his passion
be sincere and honourable he shall have
my good wishes for his success. As to
his success, resum’d her ladyship, it
depends entirely on yourself; — for
I assure you, it is with you he is in
love.’

‘With me! madam,’ cry’d Jenny,
very much astonish’d, and setting down
her dish of tea; — ‘What does your lady-
ship mean? — ‘I mean as I have said,
replied the other; — but if you have a
mind the intelligence should be repeat-
ed, I will oblige you so far as to assure
you, that it is with your individual self
sir Robert Manley is in love.’

‘ I perceive, said Jenny, your ladyship is pleased to divert yourself this morning at my expence. — No, I protest, return’d lady Speck, I was never more in earnest in my whole life. —Indeed, rejoin’d miss Wingman, I can vouch for my sister’s sincerity in this point ; — sir Robert has made mr. Lovegrove and lord Huntley the confidants of his passion ; and I believe you will very soon hear it from his own mouth.’

‘ I hope not, answer’d Jenny, in a very reserved tone ; — for if sir Robert has in reality any such inclinations towards me as you mention, he should at least, methinks, have the prudence to keep them to himself, as he cannot but know my hand has long since been destined to another.’

‘ Say rather, cry’d lady Speck, intended to be given ; for it is not in the power of parents to make their childrens fate ; — they often decree for us what we do not think fit to comply with even while they live, to awe us into obedience by their frowns ; but when they are dead, and we are left to the management of ourselves, we chil-
dren

‘ dren pay not much regard to the injunctions of those who are no longer in a condition to thwart our inclinations.’

‘ That may be the case sometimes madam,’ said Jenny; ‘ but I should be sorry to be among the number of those who verify it; our parents have not only an undoubted right to dispose of us, but also are much better judges of what will make our happiness than ourselves can pretend to be.’

‘ All this is very true,’ cry’d miss Wingman very briskly, ‘ but how much soever those who would pass for the discreet part of our sex may picque themselves upon their implicit obedience in this point, I believe the men will not be found altogether so sanguine in the performance of their duty.’

‘ No, no,’ reply’d lady Speck, inclination does all on their part; — it is not virtue, — it is not wit, — it is not beauty, — it is not all the perfections that Heaven and nature can bestow, — but Fancy, — partial Fancy, by which the heart of man is influenced; and that woman who perseveres in her affection for a lover, who either never did, or having once done so, ceases to regard her.

‘ her as he ought, discovers a meanness
 ‘ of spirit which must render her con-
 ‘ temptible, both in his eyes and those
 ‘ of all her acquaintance.’

Jenny, whose penetration few things escaped, presently comprehended that this discourse was aim’d to raise some suspicions in her mind concerning the constancy of Jemmy ; and looking on such an attempt as highly injurious both to herself and him, answer’d with somewhat of what the French call a fierty in her voice and countenance, in these terms :

‘ The more ridiculous it appears, said
 ‘ she, the more reason has mr. Jessamy
 ‘ and myself to thank Heaven for di-
 ‘ recting the care of our indulging fa-
 ‘ thers to cast our lot where there is no
 ‘ danger of such a misfortune happening
 ‘ to neither of us.’

Lady Speck and miss Wingman looked on each other with some amazement while Jenny was speaking, as not well knowing what to think ; but after a pause of some minutes, ‘ Some people, said
 ‘ lady Speck, a little icornfully, take a
 ‘ pride in being blind to what half the
 ‘ town has long since seen and laugh’d

‘at.’ Here she stoped, and miss Wingman, who was the more spiritous of the two, and a good deal nettled at the tart manner in which Jenny had spoke, cry’d out, ‘Dear sister, I beg you will shew miss Jeffamy the letter your ladyship received since our coming down to Bath; it is the duty of her friends to force open her eyes, as she seems obstinate to shut daylight out.’

‘It is a thing I have been very loth to mention, resum’d lady Speck, and now do it with an extreme reluctance; but since there is no other way to convince you that the world is not so ignorant as you imagine, of the infidelity and perfidiousness of mr. Jeffamy, read that, — and cease for the future to offer any thing in the vindication of so unworthy a man.’

In speaking these words she took a letter out of her pocket and put it into Jenny’s hand, which that young lady opening, with an agitation of spirits very unusual with her, found it contain’d as follows,

To the Honourable Lady SPECK,
at Bath.

MADAM,

“ **A**S I know very well that minds
“ truly benignant and humane, like
“ your ladyship’s, take a pleasure in
“ every opportunity of doing good, I
“ shall make no apology for the trouble
“ of this anonymous epistle; especially as
“ it is wrote with a view of serving a
“ young lady, who so well deserves
“ and possesses so much of your lady-
“ ship’s kind wishes as miss Jessamy.”

“ But not to keep your ladyship in
“ suspence, permit me to acquaint you,
“ that mr. Jeffamy, who for some time
“ has made his private addresses to miss
“ Chit, has now taken the opportunity
“ of your fair friend’s absence to avow
“ publickly his passion for that young
“ person. Some people will have it,
“ that every thing is already so far con-
“ cluded upon between them that a
“ marriage will very shortly be con-
“ summated; but this I will not pretend
“ to affirm: it is certain, however, that
“ he loves her; and that a little skill in
“ music, out-ballances, in his giddy
“ fancy, all the real merits of the beau-
“ tiful and accomplished miss Jessamy.”

“ I know not whether she is as yet ap-
“ priz’d of his infidelity, or has even any
“ suspicions of it ; but the less she is so the
“ more will it shock her tender nature
“ to find, at her return, that he is mar-
“ ried, or about being married to ano-
“ ther. — How could her gentle heart
“ support the sudden disappointment ?
“ — How bear the double pangs of the
“ indignity offer’d to her love and beau-
“ ty ? — Fatal, alas, might be the conse-
“ quences of such a stroke, if not
“ previously prepar’d and arm’d against
“ it ! ”

“ It depends greatly on your ladyship
“ to shield that injured innocence from
“ being too deeply affected with her
“ misfortune ; and as her case must touch
“ every one who has a soul capable of
“ social commiseration, I take the liberty,
“ with all submission, to entreat you,
“ madam, to give her such warnings of
“ her fate as may render the certainty,
“ whenever it shall arrive, less heavy to
“ be borne ; — if once thoroughly per-
“ suaded there is a probability of his
“ being false, it will at least take off the
“ alarming surprise of finding he is so ;
“ and the more early she is brought to
“ suspect his baseness, the more oppor-
“ tunity

“ tunity she will have to exert the good
“ sense she is mistress of, in despising in-
“ stead of lamenting it.”

“ The manner in which this is most
“ proper to be done will best be de-
“ termined by your ladyship’s superior
“ judgment: I only beg that the above
“ hints may be received, in an assurance
“ that they proceed from a heart truly
“ devoted to honour and virtue, and en-
“ tirely free from all views but such as
“ may be conducive to promote the
“ cause of those noble principles.”

I am,

With a profound respect,

Madam,

Your ladyship’s

Most humble,

Most faithful

And obedient servant.

P. S. “ Your ladyship will pardon
“ the concealment of my name for the
“ present, as an advice of this nature
“ might probably subject the person who
“ gives it to many great inconvenien-
“ cies, if known before the affair to

“ which it relates is absolutely concluded and past beyond all possibility of denial.”

Scarce had Jenny patience to go through with this invidious scroll ; —
“ Good God,” cry’d she, to lady Speck ;
“ — who is it can have the baseness to
assert such monstrous untruths, or the
presumption to attempt making your
ladyship’s good nature the dupe of a
design so villainous, and withal so mean ? ”

Then immediately recollecting what had just now been told her concerning the passion sir Robert Manley had entertain’d for her, she hesitated not a moment to accuse him of having taken this method to alienate her affections from Jemmy ; and looking on the contrivance with that contempt and indignation it really deserved, began to reproach in terms the most bitter that could issue from a mouth so little accustom’d to invectives.

The two ladies seem’d quite astonish’d at her behaviour, and both join’d to endeavour to convince her of the injustice to sir Robert, who they believed had too much honour to attempt the gaining of his point by a way so abject and so unworthy

worthy of his character; and to clear his innocence, assured her that they had heard an account of Jemmy's infidelity from many hands before they had left London; or that sir Robert had ever seen her face.

All they could say, however, was insufficient to make Jenny recede from her opinion; the dispute grew pretty warm, and would probably have run to greater lengths, if it had not been seasonably interrupted by some company coming to visit them.



C H A P. XXI.

Gives an account of some passages, which, added to the former, affords our heroine much matter of discontent.

JENNY had been so much discomposed and ruffled at the discourse of the ladies, and the letter shewn to her by them, that neither her natural sprightliness and gayety, nor all the efforts her reason made, were sufficient to

She had not the least tincture of jealousy in her composition ; she had always depended on the sincerity of Jemmy, and as yet was far from believing that he could be false ; but it vexed her to be told that others thought him so ; that he pass'd in the eyes of the world for an inconstant and ungrateful man ; and what was still more insupportable, that herself was look'd upon as a slighted and forsaken mistress.

Pity is so near a-kin to contempt, that few women of spirit can bear it ; even those who have the least share of vanity, I believe, would rather chuse to be envy'd and hated for having too much the power of pleasing, than commiserated for their want of it.

The affection she had for Jemmy was not of that fond and foolish nature as to make her wish to be for ever in his sight ; she had been absent from him more weeks than she had now been days, without the least repining or inquietude ; but on the hearing of this story she could not keep herself from being excessively

sively impatient for his coming down to Bath; — not that she desir'd his presence to clear any doubts of her own, but that his behaviour might convince the company she was with of their mistake as to his fidelity.

The promise he had made of following her when she left London, and which had since been confirmed by two several letters she had received from him, made her expect his arrival would be very soon, and she was pleasing herself with the thoughts how that event would make lady Speck and miss Wingman ashamed of having too rashly given credit to a calumny, which she doubted not but they would then see had not the least foundation.

But this was a satisfaction which vanish'd in a very short space of time; a few hours made her know that she must wait much longer than she had imagined for the completion of what at present her pride made her so ardently desire.

The evening of that very same day, whose morning had occasion'd in her breast these various perturbations, presented her with something which was far

from lulling them to rest.—Just as she was going to the assembly-room with the ladies and some other company, the post brought her a letter, the contents whereof were these:

To Miss JESSAMY, at Bath.

Dear JENNY,

“ I Am in so ill a humour, that I believe it would be utterly out of my power to write to any one person in the world except yourself; and yet it is almost entirely on your account that I am thus disconcerted. This you may think a paradox, but I shall soon explain the riddle.”

“ For three whole days successively I have been every hour expecting the arrival of my steward; but last night, instead of himself I received a letter from him, acquainting me that having been obliged to make a seizure on one of my tenant’s effects, that affair would of necessity detain him at least seven or eight days longer.”

“ Judge how severely this accident has mortify’d me, as it deprives me so much longer than I hop’d of the pleasures

“ sures of the Bath, and what is infinite-
 “ ly more valuable to me, the sight of
 “ my dear Jenny ; — console me as of-
 “ ten you can with your letters ; — it is
 “ in them alone I can take any true fa-
 “ tisfaction during this enforced absence.
 “ — Farewel ; — I flatter myself there
 “ is no need of fresh assurances to con-
 “ vince you that I am,

With the warmest affection,

My dear Jenny's

Most devoted and

Obedient servant,

J. JESSAMY.

P. S. “ My friend Bellpine, who is
 “ now with me, desires you will accept
 “ his compliments and best wishes ; —
 “ we are just going together to hear a
 “ fine piece of music, if my chagrin
 “ does not turn the notes into discord.
 “ — Once more for this time, — my dear
 “ Jenny, — adieu.”

Jenny withdrew to a window to take
 just a cursory view of this epistle ; for
 being waited for by the company she
 could not, without a breach of civility,
 give herself time to examine it with that

strictness the present situation of her mind inclined her to do. She was, however, sufficiently mistress of the sense of it to perceive she must not expect to see him at Bath so soon as she wish'd; and this delay, as my fair readers will easily believe, gave no small mortification both to her pride and love.

The assembly was more than ordinarily brilliant that night; but not all the diversions and gallantries of the place could dissipate the gloom that hung heavy on her spirits, and as she was an ill dissembler, was but two visible in her countenance.

It was not that in the slight perusal she had been able to give Jemmy's letter she had found any thing to confirm the informations of lady Speck and miss Wingman, but the delay of his coming, at a time when she thought his presence so necessary to clear both his own and her reputation, that alone gave her these inquietudes; and the disappointment was more grievous, as it was the first she as yet had ever met with.

Not all her efforts could enable her to behave with her accustomed vivacity that night; — she bore very little part in the conversation;

conversation ; — was wholly unattentive to the music, as well as the fine things said to her ; and whenever she spoke, it was in such a manner as made it easy to perceive she would rather have chose to have remain'd silent.

Conscious of this defect, and finding herself altogether unfit for company, she pretended a violent head-ach, and retir'd some hours before the usual time.

On her coming home she shut herself up in her own apartment, and gave strict orders to her maid that no one should disturb her ; then fell to examining, with the utmost exactnes, every sentence of the letter which had created in her so much uneasiness ; — she compared it with the others she had received from him since her arrival at Bath, and found it nothing different either in the stile or manner ; — till coming to the postscript, the mention he made of going to hear a fine piece of music, she suddenly cry'd out, — ‘ That musick perhaps may be ‘ perform'd by miss Chit ; a story, such ‘ as I have been told, could not certainly ‘ be raised without some little truth for ‘ its foundation.’

But

But this fit of jealousy lasted scarce a moment, ‘ How unjust and foolish am I ! ’ said she : I know he loves music, but what then ? if being mistress of that accomplishment had given miss Chit, or any other woman, the preference to me in his esteem, he would have been entirely silent on the pleasure he was going to take ; the guilty always carefully avoid speaking on the theme which calls their crime in question.’

In this favourable disposition she might perhaps have continued, if a thousand instances of the deceit and perfidy of men in the affairs of love, which she had either heard or read of, had not immediately presented themselves to her remembrance, and reminded her that she ought not to be too secure ; that the passion of love, like the wind, blew where it listed, and that, as the poet says :

Man is but man, inconstant still and various,

There’s no to-morrow in him like to-day ;

Perhaps the atoms rolling in his brain
Make him think honestly this present hour :

The

The next a swarm of base ungrateful thoughts

May mount aloft,

Who would trust chance, since all men have the seeds

Of good or ill, which would work upwards first.

Yet for all this could she not bring herself to believe him absolutely false ; if one moment accused him in her thoughts, the next acquitted him ; but what gave her the greatest perplexity of all was, the difficulty she found in guessing by whom or to what end this aspersion had first been raised, and how it came to be so spread.

She thought that neither Jemmy nor herself had done ony thing to incur the malice of the world, so far as that even any one person should be desirous of rendering them unhappy ; ‘ It cannot therefore be, cried she, but that some vile self-interested view must be the source of all this ; no body sure would be at the wicked pains to separate two persons whose hearts from their infancy have been united by the strictest bonds of love and friendship, merely for the sake of mischief ; no, it is utterly impossible

‘ possible that human nature can be so depraved.’

This reflection leading her still farther on, she began to argue within her mind for what end a contrivance to part her and Jemmy could be form’d, and found none so conformable to probability, as that the author of it aimed to be in the place either of the one or the other.

As for her own part, the engagements between her and Jemmy were so well known that no man had ever made his serious addresses to her, and if sir Robert Manley had now any such intentions, the character of that gentleman would not permit her to believe he could be capable of making use of base means for the forwarding his wishes ; besides, lady Speck and miss Wingman had assured her, in the most solemn manner, that they had heard the report before their coming down to Bath, or that he had ever seen her.

It rested therefore, that it must be on the account of Jemmy that all this had happen’d ; she knew very well that he convers’d freely with the ladies, he had never made a secret to her of his doing so, and it seem’d not in the least improbable,

bable, that some one among them might like him but too well. ‘ Perhaps, said she, miss Chit herself mistaking for love what he meant only as gallantry, might have the vanity to boast of having inspired him with a real passion.’

‘ The smallest hint, continued she, that such a thing is, — or possibly may be, passes with many people for an undoubted fact. — And who knows but the whisper of Jemmy’s imaginary infidelity may have been carried from one to another till it reach’d the ears of some person, who more compassionate than wife, wrote to lady Speck in the manner I have seen.’

Thus did she endeavour to dive into the bottom of this mysterious affair, assigning for it every cause that reason or her fertile imagination could suggest; — yet wavering still, and uncertain on which of them she should fix, her mind at length grew quite fatigued with the unavailing search; and she resolved to wait till time should bring to light what all her penetration could not at present enable her to discover.

In this manner was the sweetest and most serene temper in the world disconcerted,

certed and thrown off its byafs, by the dark villany of a man whom she had not the least suspicion of.— She went to bed however, and for ought I ever heard to the contrary, slept as well as if nothing had happen'd to perplex her waking thoughts.

C H A P. XXII.

Affords some very useful and exemplary hints to young persons of both sexes ; which if they are not the better and wiser for, it is wholly owing to themselves, and not the fault of the author.

THAT only true composing draught, an unforced natural slumber, so effectually lull'd the mind of Jenny that when she arose the next morning the anxieties of the preceding day were scarce remember'd by her ; or if they were, it was but to wonder at herself for having yielded to their force.

‘ As I think, said she, that I may be
‘ pretty confident the story I was told
‘ yesterday has nothing of reality in it,
‘ but

‘ but is a most vile and notorious falsehood ; how silly was I to give myself any pain concerning either, by whom or on what motive it was invented ? ’

‘ There are some people, said she, who seem to be born with a propensity to mischief. I remember that when I was at the boarding-school a thousand little quarrels happen’d between the girls, which were occasion’d merely by the lying insinuations of some among us, who took a wicked pleasure in giving pain to others.’

‘ Too many in the world, continued she, when arrived at years of maturity, instead of endeavouring to correct, take pains to improve and cultivate this cruel disposition in themselves, till even it becomes a science ; and the more vexation they create to those who are so unhappy to be of their acquaintance, the more proofs they imagine they give of their own ingenuity and fertility of invention.’

‘ How stupid then is it, went she still on, to give ear to every idle tale ? It is joining with the adversaries of our peace ; — aiding those malicious efforts, and giving them a triumph over us, which

‘ which otherwise all they could do
‘ would never be able to obtain: we
‘ certainly ought not to believe ill of
‘ any one without the testimony of our
‘ own senses to confirm the truth of that
‘ report; but more especially it behoves
‘ us to reject with the utmost contempt
‘ whatever has a tendency to create a dif-
‘ agreement between us and those we
‘ love.’

Thus did her good understanding and strength of reason enable her to get the better of all these doubts and jealous apprehensions, into which young persons of her sex are for the most part too liable to fall. She past a good deal of time in this sort of conversation with herself; and would not, perhaps, have broke it off so soon, if she had not been interrupted by lady Speck’s woman, who came into the chamber to enquire after her health, and to let her know that the ladies waited breakfast for her.

She obey’d the summons immediately, and appear’d so very sprightly, that lady Speck and her sister had not the least room to imagine that the disorder she had complain’d of the night before had been occasion’d by any thing they had said to her in relation to Jemmy.

A succession of visitants, one after another, came in all that whole day, some of whom stay'd to accompany them to the long room ; but Jenny, who had never fail'd to answer every letter she had received from Jemmy by the very first post, would not now be more remiss ; and excusing herself for a few minutes retired to her chamber and wrote to him in the following manner :

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq ;

My dear JEMMY,

“ **I** Am very sensible that I am quite
“ wrong to add to the vexation you
“ exprefs, by giving you any know-
“ ledge of mine ; — yet it is not in my
“ power to forbear telling you, that this
“ delay of your journey hither has in-
“ volved me in disquiets altogether new
“ to me ; — I know not how it is, that
“ I never so much wish'd to see you as I
“ now do.”

“ I should be sorry if you neglected
“ any affairs of consequence on my ac-
“ count ; but be assured however, till
“ you come, all the amusements, all
“ the pleasures with which this place
“ abounds,

“ abounds, and I am continually sur-
“ rounded with, will lose their relish
“ and be insipid to me.”

“ Such a confession would seem ex-
“ tremely awkward from the pen of a
“ woman, were we not upon the terms
“ we are, or had we been brought up in
“ a different manner ; but from my in-
“ fancy I have been made to think it
“ was my duty to conceal from you no
“ part of my sentiments ; and you have
“ often told me, that the same principles
“ were instilled in you : — As I have the
“ most perfect confidence that you are
“ no less punctual in your obedience to
“ this injunction than myself, I am not
“ afraid or ashamed of giving you all
“ the testimonies of my affection that
“ honour and virtue will permit ; and
“ more, I am certain, you will never
“ desire.”

“ I shall say nothing to urge you to
“ as speedy a dispatch as possible of the
“ business that detains you from me ;
“ I am too well acquainted with your
“ sincerity to doubt if your heart is not
“ already here, and shall therefore en-
“ deavour to console myself till your
“ arrival with your letters, as you tell
“ me

“ me you shall do with those you receive
“ from me. I am,

With an attachment

Which only yourself can break,

My dear Jemmy,

Your most affectionate

And ever faithful

J. JESSAMY.

P. S. “ If I have express'd too much
“ impatience in the above, excuse it.on
“ the account that hitherto, unaccustom'd
“ to disappointments, I am the less able
“ to sustain them with that fortitude and
“ resignation I ought to do.”

Having finish'd this little epistle, and given orders that it should be carried to the post-office, she return'd to the company, who by this time were ready to adjourn to the assembly; — she went with them, and few women there appear'd to more advantage than herself.

Sir Robert Manley, to whom neither lady Speck nor miss Wingman had related any part of the rebuff they had received from Jenny on his score, was
very

very impatient to make a declaration of his passion to her ; but though he had seen her three times that day at home,—in the walks,— and at the assembly, yet no opportunity proper for his purpose had presented itself.

He complain'd of his ill luck to lord Huntley and mr. Lovegrove, who, after consulting with the ladies what could be done for the advancement of the interest of their friend in this point, it was so contrived amongst them, that she should be left alone with him as if by accident.

But this could not be done with so much art as to elude the discernment of Jenny ; she easily perceived with what intent first one and then another slipt out of the room, till none but herself and sir Robert were left in it. She could not help smiling within herself to think that all this mighty pains was taken only to shew sir Robert that he had nothing to hope for from her ; and was not at all displeased with having it in her power to convince that gentleman, that the affection between herself and Jemmy was too strongly cemented to be shaken by the amorous attacks of any pretender whatsoever.

I am

I am afraid that, on computation, the number of those ladies would be found but small, who, in this giddy and unthinking age, are not fond of making new conquests ; though render'd, by even the most solemn engagements, utterly incapable of accepting the trophies presented them : — Jenny, however, had nothing of this vanity in her composition, — she had heard and read much of the effects of love, and the fatal consequences which had sometimes attended a disappointed flame ; and therefore had always consider'd that passion as a thing of too serious a nature to be sported with ; and that it was an action highly ungenerous and cruel to encourage the growth of it in any heart, without having the power or inclination of making an adequate return.

Sir Robert Manley was a person whose addresses might have gratify'd the pride of any woman, who placed her glory in seeing herself admired : Jenny was sensible of his merit, but the more she was so, the more she thought herself obliged to prevent him at once from indulging any fruitless expectations.

He had no sooner made her an offer of his heart, and was just beginning to af-

sure her how much, and how eternally he was devoted to her, than she stopp'd the progress of his declaration, by asking him, with a very reserved air,— It he were really in earnest?—To which he answering in the affirmative, and annexing the most solemn protestation of the truth,—‘ Then ‘ sir, said she, I am equally sorry and ‘ astonish'd, that a gentleman of so much ‘ good sense and honour in other things, ‘ should forget himself so far as to en- ‘ tertain any thoughts of this kind for a ‘ woman, who, he cannot but have ‘ heard, has from her very birth been ‘ allotted for another.’

The manner in which these words were deliver'd giving a double energy to the meaning of them, had a prodigious effect on the person to whom they were directed; — though a man of great presence of mind, — bred in high life, and perfectly acquainted with the world, he could not keep himself from being a little abash'd at receiving so grave and so severe a reprimand from a lady of Jenny's years and inexperience.

But soon recovering himself, — ‘ Ma- ‘ dam, said he, — I beg you will do me ‘ the justice to believe, that however ‘ ardent my passion is, I would scorn to attempt

attempt the gratification of it by any ways which my honour or my reason should condemn : — that I love you, is most true ; yet would I chuse rather to consume through the force of an extinguishable flame, than to make the least encroachment either on your virtue or your peace.'

' I do not indeed deny, continued he, but that I have been told somewhat concerning an agreement made for you in your extreme youth ; but as no consequence has since happen'd of that agreement, I flatter'd myself that your heart approv'd not of the choice made for you, — was at full liberty to elect for itself, and that no impediment lay in the way of my ambition, but my own unworthiness of obtaining so estimable a jewel.'

He concluded these words with a deep sigh, and a bow full of the greatest tenderness and respect ; the grateful soul of Jenny was a little touch'd at his behaviour, and she immediately replied with an extreme sweetness ; — ' Were there no other bar than what you last mention'd, sir, said she, I believe there are few women, of any penetration at least, to whom your heart would be an

‘ unacceptable present; and I shall rejoice to see it bestow'd where equal worth and unpre-engaged affections may crown the utmost of its wishes.

‘ Ah, madam! cry'd sir Robert, Why is this enchanting goodness lavish'd on a man who cannot thank the bounty? All my desires, alafs! are center'd in yourself; and to wish me happy with any other object, is but to wish me wretched. — But tell me, — tell me, pursued he, — Are you in earnest, absolutely determined to give your hand to this too fortunate rival? Is it a thing mutually resolved between you?

Jenny, knowing very well what he had been inform'd of concerning the supposed infidelity of Jemmy, was charm'd with his politeness in imputing the delay of their nuptials rather to an indifference on her side than a dislike on his; and now more desirous than ever of entirely stifling all fallacious hopes, which in the end might prove destructive to his peace, compell'd her modesty to confess to him, that she really loved Jemmy, and that her inclinations would have prefer'd him to all the men in the world, even though they had not been destined for each other by their parents.

Sir

Sir Robert could not hear this declaration without pain; but being fully persuaded in his mind, by what lord Huntley, mr. Lovegrove and others had assured him, that Jemmy but ill repaid the tenderness of his fair mistres, he assumed courage enough to offer a second petition to her consideration.

‘ Well madam, said he, after a little pause, I will not presume to call in question the merits of the man whom you are pleased to favour, I will believe him as deserving as I am sure he is happy; yet if any accident, yet unforeseen, should happen to disunite you, if any thing, impossible as it may seem, should render him ungrateful for the blessing he enjoys, might I not hope my love, my truth, my perseverance, would in time find some room in a corner of that heart which doubtless then would have exterminated its first ideas.’

This insinuation was far from working the effect it was intended for; Jenny was highly offended at it, and turning from him with somewhat of a disdainful air; ‘ To demand a promise, said she, on suppositions without foundation, is

‘ so chymerical as scarce deserves an answer ; but sir Robert, on this you may depend, that whenever mr. Jesfamy shall prove unworthy of my love, I shall, instead of giving him a successor in my heart, detest and avoid all mankind for ever.’

Sir Robert was now conscious he had gone too far, and desirous of perserving her esteem, if he could not gain her affection, endeavoured all he could to excuse the rashness of his late suggestion, which possibly he succeeded in better than he imagined, as Jenny was sensible it was wholly owing to the base reports that had been raised ; she would not however, seem to forgive too easily any reflection cast upon her dear Jemmy, but continued in the same serious deportment till the return of the company put an end to all discourse between them on this score.



C H A P. XXIII.

Relates how, in the compass of an hour, Jenny met with two surprising adventures of very different kinds; and the manner in which she behaved in them, with some other no less extraordinary particulars, which the reader will doubtless be puzzled to know the meaning of.

AFTER what had pass'd between Jenny and sir Robert, that gentleman thought it would be in vain to prosecute his suit; his friends also, to whom he imparted the conversation he had with her, were of the same opinion; and the report of Jemmy's inconstancy began now to lose much of the credit it had obtain'd among them.

Sir Robert, whose esteem for Jenny was not at all diminish'd by her late behaviour towards him, tho' it had made him endeavour to overcome his passion for her, omitted nothing in his power to reconcile himself to her good graces; which he at length effectually did, by giving her the strongest and reiterated

assurances that he would never more attempt to interrupt that affection, which he now seem'd to believe mutually existing between her and mr. Jeffamy.

The same easy freedom of conversation, which had reign'd among this amiable company since their first coming down to Bath, was now again restored ; but it lasted not long, accidents on accidents, in which every one had a share, immediately fell out, and turn'd all into discord and confusion.

Among the croud of guests who were every day at the tea-table of lady Speck, there was a gentleman named Celandine ; he had but lately return'd from making the tour of Europe, and like Clodio in the play, pretended to be acquainted with all the intrigues of the several courts he had been in ; he was gay, spiritous, had some wit, and abundance of assurance ; which, with the affectation of great good humour, made him pass for a very agreeable companion, and particularly entitled him to the favour of the ladies ; many of whom thought the loss of reputation no disgrace when forfeited on his account.

He was certainly very much indebted to nature for a handsome person, and to education for all those modish accomplishments which with unthinking people are apt to cast a lustre even to the worst qualities of the mind; his example was at least a proof of this melancholy truth; for it would have puzzled even his best friends and greatest admirers, if ask'd the question, to have found any one virtue in him to compensate for a thousand vices; he was vain to an excess, ungrateful, insincere, incapable either of love or friendship; a contemner both of morality and religion; in fine, he was a libertine profess'd.

His family was ancient and honourable, and from thence descended to him a very large estate, which, without doing one generous or benevolent action, he seem'd to take abundance of pains to get rid of by the most unheard of, and ridiculous extravagancies and vagaries.

The reader will perhaps imagine, that a character such as this, deserved not so particular a description; nor should I have troubled him with it had there not been an absolute necessity of my doing

Jenny was at home alone one day ; lady Speck and miss Wingman were gone into the walks, but some letters she had received from London, which required immediate answers, had hinder'd her from accompanying them ; having finish'd what she had to do before they return'd, she went down into the garden, in order to refresh her spirits after the fatigue they had undergone, by her writing so much longer than she was accustom'd at one time.

She took a short promenade in the great alley ; but being in a contemplative mood, retired into the arbour at the farther end of it ; where, as the reader may remember, the performers in lord Huntley's interlude had been conceal'd : there could not, indeed, be a more proper scene for indulging meditation, and she was just beginning to fall into a very agreeable reverie, when on a sudden Celandine appear'd at the entrance of the leafy bower, and accosted her with these lines, translated by himself, from a French poet :

So look'd Pomona when Vertumnus
came,
And with immortal raptures clasp'd
the dame.

As great a favourite as this young gallant was with most of the women of his acquaintance, Jenny had never been able to endure the sight of him, on account of his pert confident behaviour ; but his presence was now doubly unwelcome to her, as there was nobody but herself to entertain him, or to bear a part in the impertinent freedoms of his conversation, and she could not forbear giving him a look which might have dash'd the boldness of any other man, and made him quit the place.

But Celandine, as has been before observ'd, and Jenny in this visit experienced to her cost, was none of those who were capable of being aw'd either by looks or words; 'full of his own merit, and puff'd up with frequent successes among the fair, he thought the whole sex at his devotion; that no woman could withstand his charms, and that the coldness Jenny had always treated him with, was no more than an affectation of modesty in public, which on his making

the first overtures of a passion for her would vanish in an instant, and she would drop into his arms as rain does from the firmament.

‘ How kind is fortune to me, said he, approaching her, in giving me this opportunity of speaking in private to my angel.’ ‘ If you are indebted to fortune for no greater favours, replied Jenny, you have but small cause to thank her bounty: But pray, continued she, how came you to be out of the walks this fine day, when all the world are there?’

‘ I might ask you the same question, answered he, and equally wonder why I find the enchanting miss Jeffamy here, moeving in a solitary shade, and neglecting to increase the number of her conquests, and add new triumphs to her eyes;—but I’ll tell you, pursued he, catching hold of her hand,— it was fate,—propitious fate, ordain’d it so for both our happiness;—some kind good natured Demon put it into your head to stay at home, and in mine to seek you here.’

He concluded these words with throwing one of his arms about her neck, and begun

began to kiss her with vehemence: hard is it to say, whether surprise or rage, at being treated in this manner, was most predominant in her soul;—she broke from him, and starting some paces back,

‘ What means this rudeness? cried she,’
 ‘ —Give not so harsh a name, rejoin’d
 ‘ he, to the emotions of the most tender
 ‘ passion that ever was.’ —‘ A passion for
 ‘ me, said she, in a voice full of disdain.’
 ‘ Yes, — for you, replied he, staring
 ‘ her in the face,—Did my eyes never tell
 ‘ you the secret of my heart?’ ‘ No, really,
 ‘ said she,—I never examine into the
 ‘ mysterious dialect, nor desire to have
 ‘ it explain’d.’

With these words she was going hastily out of the arbour, but the nimble Celandine at one jump got between her and the entrance, and in spite of all the resistance she could make, forced her back to the bench where he had found her sitting.

‘ No more prudery, cry’d he, — this
 ‘ pretended coyness,—we are now alone,
 ‘ and the means of being so are not easy
 ‘ to be found in such a place as Bath;—
 ‘ do not then, by this unseasonable re-
 ‘ serve, make me lose the golden glori-
 ‘ ous opportunity that Heaven has sent,
 ‘ of

‘ of giving you the most substantial
‘ proofs how much my soul adores you,
‘ —how much I prize you above that
‘ Heaven itself.

It is as impossible to paint the distraction Jenny was in, as it was for her to express it, or relieve herself from the impending danger to which she was reduced. They were at too great a distance from the house for her cries to alarm the family ;—he held her fast down on the seat, with his hands on both her shoulders, she could only call him monster, villain ;—while he, regardless of her reproaches, utter'd things which made her modest heart shudder at the sound of.

To what horrid freedoms he might have proceeded is uncertain ; a sudden rustling among the branches, which twined about the latticed arbour, made him relax the hold he had taken of his fair captive, and turn to see what had occasion'd this interruption. Jenny lost not the instant of her release, but rather flew than ran out of that detested place, when, just at the entrance, she was met by a woman, or to speak more properly, a fury, arm'd with a penknife, which she had doubtless plunged into the bosom of the defenceless fair, if Celandine, who was close

close behind, had not been very quick in wresting it from her hand.

‘ What fiend, thou cursed creature, cry’d Celandine, has prompted thy malice to attempt this execrable deed?’ ‘ What fiend but thyself,—thou worse than devil,’ answer’d she, almost foaming at the mouth with passion. Jenny stay’d not to hear what further pass’d between them, but ran screaming down the alley; lady Speck and miss Wingman, accompany’d by mr. Lovegrove, enter’d the house at that very moment, and were the first who came to her assistance.

Never were three people in greater consternation than they; Jenny, with arms extended and garments all disorder’d, crying out for help;—Celandine at some distance, with the utmost confusion in his looks and at his feet a woman, who seem’d either dead or in a swoon;—in vain they inquired the occasion of all this;—Jenny was incapable of speaking, by the fright which yet hung upon her spirits;—the intended murderess by the condition she was in, and Celandine by his guilt.

Mr. Lovegrove, who had more presence of mind than any of the rest on this occasion, finding no answers were given to their interrogatories, stept forward to convince himself if the person who lay upon the earth were alive or dead ; and this action of his 'twas that probably recover'd Celandine the use of his tongue ; but the first and only token he gave of it, was to say, it was a mad woman, who had some how or other gained admittance ; and to desire the servants might be order'd to carry her out of the house.

Mr. Lovegrove having found the person he spoke of in this manner was only in a fainting fit, cry'd out, ' Whatever she is, her figure, as well as the present condition she is in, seems to demand rather compassion than contempt.'—On this lady Speck and her sister ran to assist the charitable endeavour he was making for her recovery : but Jenny still kept at a good distance ; and Celandine, who, for all his impudence, was not provided with fit answers to the questions which were like to be put to him, took the opportunity of their being thus engaged to sneak off, without giving any notice of his going.

By

By this time the woman of the house, with all the servants, were got into the garden, and among them the unhappy stranger was carried into a parlour and laid upon a couch, where proper remedies being apply'd, she came a little to herself.



C H A P. XXIV.

Contains some part of the history of the furious stranger, as told by herself.

THE company, to whom Jenny had now related the dangers she had escap'd, were very impatient to know the whole of this adventure; and perceiving the person chiefly concerned in it was recover'd enough to be able to satisfy their curiosity, began almost all at once to ask what had induced her to attempt such an act of barbarity; but that unfortunate creature had not the power, for a considerable time, of making any other answer than a torrent of tears, which gush'd from her eyes with such rapidity as drew compassion even from Jenny herself.

The

The violence of that passion however, which so long had stopp'd the passage of her words, having found this vent, she entreated their pardon for the disturbance she had caused, and thanked the charitable relief that had been offer'd her, in terms so polite as made every one see she was not of the lowest rank in life.

Then turning to Jenny, —‘ But it is
‘ you, madam, I have most offended,
‘ said she ; Oh ! had I perpetrated the
‘ horrid deed, Heaven sure must have
‘ decreed some new and yet unpractised
‘ torture for a crime like mine :’—Here
she ceased to give way to some sighs,
which were just then forcing themselves
from her afflicted bosom,—after which,
—‘ Yet, that Heaven to whom I now
‘ appeal, cry'd she, is witness for me,
‘ as well as my own conscious soul, that
‘ I was clear of all malice, all premedita-
‘ ted design against you :—When I drew
‘ that cursed knife, I meant not to hurt
‘ your innocence, but to do justice to
‘ myself on the villian that was with you :
‘ —Some demon in that instant sure,
‘ turn'd my erring arm from its in-
‘ tended mark to save his brother fiend.’

‘ Who

‘ Who is this fiend,—this villian you
‘ are speaking of? cry’d lady Speck
‘ with some emotion.’—‘ Oh! there is no
‘ name so foul,—so black as he deserves,
‘ reply’d the other ;—but if you would
‘ paint a wretch, in whom all vices, all
‘ corruptions meet as in their center,—
‘ then call him Celandine.’

‘ Oh ! ladies, continued she, in the
‘ extrekest agonies, Why will you suf-
‘ fer such a serpent near you ?—Where-
‘ ever he comes he brings destruction
‘ with him, and bitterness of heart with
‘ everlasting infamy, are the legacies he
‘ leaves behind !’

It is probable she would have run on with these exclamations much longer, if mr. Lovegrove had not reminded her, that as the person was not there, she would do better to inform the company of the cause of her complaint against him ; ‘ For, said he, you neither can be
‘ justified nor he condemn’d in our
‘ opinion, without your letting us into
‘ the secret of his crime.’

‘ Alas! answer’d she, bursting again
‘ into tears, neither his crime nor my
‘ shame are secrets to the world ; and as
‘ I am

‘ I am before persons of so much honour and goodness, I have reason to hope that a perfect knowledge of those unfortunate circumstances which brought on my undoing, will entitle me rather to compassion than at all add to the contempt the late behaviour I have been guilty of must have excited.’

The ladies then, as well as Mr. Lovegrove, assured her, that she could no way so well attone for the confusion she had given them, as by making them a faithful narrative of the motives which had induced her to it.

On this she endeavour'd to compose herself as much as possible, and after a pause of a few minutes, in order to recollect the passages she was about to relate, began to do as she was desired, in these or the like terms :

The history of Mrs. M. ——

‘ I Will not detain your attention, said this afflicted woman, with any impertinent particulars concerning a wretch so unworthy as myself; but beg you will afford a patient hearing of such as are absolutely necessary for the better understanding my unhappy story.’

‘ I was

‘ I was the only daughter of a gentleman, who, being a younger son, had no other dependance than a post in one of the public offices ; as he lived up to the height of his income, I was left at his decease, which happen’d when I was about seventeen years of age, with no other portion than a genteel education, some household furniture, and a few jewels. I had lost my mother in my infancy, so that I was altogether an orphan ;—my father’s brother, though possess’d of a large estate, declin’d taking any care of me ; and I know not what would have become of me, if an aunt, by my mother’s side, had not been so good to admit me into her family to preserve me, as she said, from falling into those temptations to which a maid of my years, and accounted not ugly, was liable to be exposed.

‘ I had not lived quite two years with this kind relation, before some business brought frequently to her house a gentleman call’d mr. M——, who you must doubtless have heard of, as he makes a pretty considerable figure in the law ;—he took a great fancy to me at first sight, which afterwards grew up into a passion ;—in fine, he loved me

‘ me upon the most honourable terms ;
‘ ask’d leave of my aunt to make his ad-
‘ dresses to me ; the match was too advan-
‘ tageous for a girl in my circumstances
‘ to be refus’d ; she press’d me to it,
‘ and as neither his person nor conver-
‘ sation were disagreeable to me, I con-
‘ fented, and in a short time became his
‘ wife.

‘ Few women, I believe, can boast of
‘ more happiness than I enjoy’d during
‘ the first seven or eight months of our
‘ marriage ; my husband seem’d to have
‘ no other study than that of obliging
‘ me ; he was continually forming some
‘ new schemes of delight and entertain-
‘ ment for me ; he never heard of any
‘ ornament of dress or furniture, in use
‘ with the beau monde, but he bought
‘ and brought it home to me ; he could
‘ scarce bear losing the sight of me a
‘ moment ; and indeed, gave me more
‘ of his company than could well be
‘ spared from his avocation.

‘ But the extremes of any thing are
‘ seldom lasting ; this exuberance of
‘ transported love, this frenzy of pas-
‘ sion, if I may call it so, vanish’d by
‘ very swift degrees ; as sudden coldness
‘ almost at once succeeded, he treated
me

‘ me civilly, ’tis true, retrench’d no part
‘ of my expences, denied me nothing
‘ that I ask’d ; but yet I found a mighty
‘ difference between this and his former
‘ behaviour ? ah, how dangerous it is
‘ for men to begin with demonstrations
‘ of a fondness which they cannot per-
‘ sever in ; I was young, vain, inconsi-
‘ derate ; I expected the same assiduity
‘ to please, the same raptures as at first,
‘ and could not brook the disappoint-
‘ ment.

‘ I complain’d of this change of my
‘ condition to a female friend of more
‘ years and experience than myself ; at
‘ first she laugh’d at me, and told me
‘ that nothing was more common, and
‘ that she had often wonder’d mr. M—
‘ held out the honey-moon so long.

‘ This putting me beyond all pa-
‘ tience,’ “ Do not be so much out of
“ humour, said she ; your cause is but
“ the same with other women, and I
“ believe I can direct you to a course
“ that will infallibly retrieve all ; it is
“ the nature of mankind, continued she,
“ to be rampant in the pursuit of their
“ wishes, but languid in the full pos-
“ session of them ; you must give your
“ husband room to apprehend he is not
“ so

“ so secure of your heart as he has
“ imagined ; toy with some pretty fellow
“ before his face, send often for him,
“ and affect to be uneasy till you see
“ him ; this will rouse your husband
“ if any thing will do it ; jealousy new
“ points the darts of love, and whets
“ the edge of satiated desire, according
“ to the poet :

They dearly prize, what they once
fear to lose.

‘ I greedily swallow’d this false doc-
trine, continued mrs. M— with a deep
sigh, and immediately resolv’d on ma-
king the experiment : Celandine, whose
person I have no occasion to give a
particular description of, as you all
know him, seemed form’d by nature
for the purpose I intended.

‘ He came frequently to our house,
my husband always treated him with
the extreimeſt respect, as indeed he had
good reaſon to do, being indebted for
his first ſetting out in the world, in the
handsome manner he did, to the father
of Celandine, whom both his parents
had ſerved, the one in quality of a
ſteward, the other of houſe-keeper ;
the favours conferr’d on mr. M—,
‘ even

‘ even from his infancy by that old gentleman, were such as made many people suspect there was a nearer affinity between them than was for my mother-in-law’s honour to acknowledge ; be that, however, as it may, it is not my business to inspect into the faults of others, but bewail my own.

‘ I had hitherto behaved towards my husband’s young patron, for so he always call’d him, with the reserve becoming the married woman ; but now, according to the pernicious advice I had received, I put on the most light airs before him ; and look’d and talk’d in such a manner as might have made a man, of much less vanity than he is endued with, imagine me to be most passionately in love with him.

‘ Whether my husband had really too much indifference for me to regard any thing I did, or whether he thought the extraordinary civilities I shew’d to his friend were merely to oblige him, I can not be certain ; all I can say is, that he took not the least notice of this change in my conduct, nor could I perceive any alteration in his carriage to me upon it.

‘ But Celandine, who thought me all
‘ devoted to him, was not of a humour
‘ to lose any part of the triumph of his
‘ new conquest ; he assiduously watch’d
‘ every opportunity of being alone with
‘ me, return’d the pretended advances
‘ I had made him with all the ardour
‘ of a man transported with them ; till
‘ at last my heart became susceptible
‘ of the guilty flame, and what I had
‘ so fatally affected grew into reality ;
‘ in fine, I loved him, was too weak to
‘ resist the dictates of my passion, and
‘ became a prey to the worst monster
‘ that ever wore the shape of man.’

Here mrs. M—— became unable to proceed, she was not so entirely lost to all sense of honour and virtue as not to feel an extreme shock at the remembrance of what she was about to repeat ; shame and confusion overwhelm’d her heart, and threw her into a second fainting, from which she was not without some difficulty recover’d.



C H A P. XXV.

Contains a continuation of mrs. M—'s adventures.

THE unfortunate mrs. M——, having once more regain'd the power and utterance, made a handsome apology for that interruption which grief and shame had occasion'd in her recital, and then prosecuted it in the following manner :

‘ It may seem strange, perhaps, said she, that with my innocence I should lose all discretion too ; yet so it was, fond even to madness of my undoer, and self satisfied with my crime, I thought of nothing, regarded nothing, studied nothing, but how to gain fresh opportunities of repeating it : whenever my husband was abroad, as of late he had but too often been so, I sent over half the town in search of Celandine ; if he was not found, the ill humour I was in sufficiently testified to all about me my impatience for the disappointment ; and whenever he was with me, we were constantly lock'd up together, and

‘ all who came to visit me were deny’d
‘ access.

‘ All this, as may easily be supposed,
‘ could be no secret ; some of my ac-
‘ quaintance contented themselves with
‘ shunning my conversation ; others still
‘ kept me company, but it was only to
‘ have the more opportunity of seeing
‘ and exposing my folly : I became the
‘ derision even of my own servants, as
‘ I easily have perceived by the little obe-
‘ dience they paid to my commands and
‘ the pert answers they gave, which were
‘ also accompanied with fleering coun-
‘ tenances and malicious grins, when-
‘ ever I went about to exert my autho-
‘ rity over them as a mistress. Oh, how
‘ great was my infatuation ! I can now,
‘ with astonish’d eyes, behold all these
‘ things distinctly ; but at that time was
‘ blind to all that conduced not to the
‘ gratification of my love ; or, as I then
‘ flatter’d myself, rewarding that of the
‘ man whom I consider’d as the most
‘ faithful, as well as the most charming
‘ of his sex.’

Here the tears began again to flow,
but she soon dry’d them up, and pur-
sued the thread of her discourse.

• My

‘ My husband, I believe, continued
‘ she, was the last person sensible of the
‘ dishonour I had brought upon him ;
‘ but he could not long escape the hear-
‘ ing of what, had he not been blinded
‘ by his too good opinion either of my
‘ self or Celandine, he needed not to
‘ have been told. I am apt to think how-
‘ ever, that he gave not an entire credi-
‘ to the story, for if he had he would
‘ not have taken the pains he did to be
‘ convinced.

‘ He left Celandine with me one day,
‘ pretending that some very extraordi-
‘ nary business call’d him abroad ; but,
‘ instead of going out, went and con-
‘ ceal’d himself in a closet within our
‘ bed-chamber, into which, thinking our-
‘ selves perfectly secure, we retir’d soon
‘ after his supposed departure : we had
‘ not been there many minutes before he
‘ rush’d out, and surprised us in a man-
‘ ner as could admit no doubt of the
‘ crime we were guilty of ; Celandine
‘ snatch’d up his sword which lay in
‘ the window, and immediatly drew it,
‘ expecting he should have occasion to
‘ use it ; but my husband in the same
‘ moment eas'd his apprehensions on that
‘ score, by saying, with a voice which

“ had more of grief than anger in it,”
“ — Put up, sir, I have not forgot the
“ obligations I have to your family, and
“ am only sorry to find you have taken
“ this method to acquit me of them ;
“ all I desire is, that you will leave my
“ house directly, and that from hence-
“ forward we may be utter strangers.”
—Celandine was in too much confu-
sion to make any answer, and went
away with all the speed he could.

“ As for my wretched self, — fear,
“ which one would think should rather
“ have given wings to my feet, and made
“ me fly the presence of an injured hus-
“ band, riveted me to the bedside on
“ which I was sitting ; my blood was
“ all congeal’d, my spirits ceas’d to ope-
“ rate ; he upbraided my ingratitude and
“ perfidiousness in terms which I must
“ confess they merited ; I heard all he
“ said, but had it not in my power to
“ make the least reply, or to excuse, or
“ defend my crime, had it been in
“ words to do either ; but at that time
“ I was indeed bereft of speech as well
“ as motion. Having vented some part
“ of his indignation in revilings, he flung
“ out of the room, and left me in the
“ condition I have described.

‘ No stupidity sure ever equalled mine ;
 ‘ a death like numbness had seiz’d all my
 ‘ faculties ; what little sense I had was
 ‘ bewildered and confused ; I could not
 ‘ even reflect on the misfortune to which
 ‘ my folly had reduced me, much less
 ‘ contrive any means to render them
 ‘ more supportable.

‘ How long I remain’d, or how much
 ‘ longer I should have remain’d in this
 ‘ lethargy of mind I know not ; but
 ‘ it was almost dark when I was rous’d
 ‘ out of it by the sudden appearance of
 ‘ an elderly woman, a relation of my
 ‘ husband’s, who with a stern voice and
 ‘ countenance told me, that she was sent
 ‘ by him to take care of his family ;
 ‘ and that I must immediately go out
 ‘ of the house.

‘ This message, and the manner in
 ‘ which it was deliver’d, stung me to
 ‘ the very soul ; rage and disdain now
 ‘ quickened every nerve, I was all on
 ‘ fire, and raved against mr. M—— in
 ‘ terms which would have made any one
 ‘ who heard me think, that it was myself,
 ‘ not he, who was the injured person.

‘ To this she coolly answer’d, that it
‘ was not her business to argue with me
‘ on these points ; that she had dischar-
‘ ged her commission in signifying my
‘ husband’s pleasure to me ; which, since
‘ I did not think fit to comply with, he
‘ must come himself and put an end to
‘ the dispute ; adding, that he was not
‘ far off, and she wou’d send directly
‘ for him.

‘ All my courage again forsook me,
‘ the sight of my husband at this time
‘ was more dreadful to me than any
‘ thing I could suffer in being banish’d
‘ from him ; besides, my reason now
‘ convinced me, that after so full a de-
‘ tection of my crime, I could not hope
‘ to live under the same roof with him ;
‘ at least not till a long series of peni-
‘ tence and submissions should give me
‘ a title to his forgiveness ; I therefore
‘ called the woman back, perceiving she
‘ was going to do as she had said, and
‘ told her, that since it was my husband’s
‘ will I should depart, I would not pro-
‘ voke him by my disobedience.

‘ In speaking these words I started up,
‘ went to the drawers, put a night-mob
‘ in my pocket, hurried on my capu-
‘ chin,

‘ chin, order’d a coach to be call’d, and
 ‘ seem’d in as much haste to be gone as
 ‘ my husband was to get rid of me;
 ‘ while I was doing this his kinswoman
 ‘ desired I would take the keys with me,
 ‘ saying, that if I sent them in the morn-
 ‘ ing she had orders to let me have
 ‘ every thing belonging to me.

“ Very well, reply’d I carelessly, I
 “ shall know in the morning what I
 “ have to do.” The coach being at the
 “ door I stept hastily into it, and made
 “ the fellow drive me to a milliner’s in
 “ Covent-Garden, whose customer I had
 “ been for a considerable time.

‘ I chose this woman’s house for an
 ‘ asylum in my present distress, not da-
 ‘ ring to apply to any one of my rela-
 ‘ tions; nor did I think it proper as yet
 ‘ to trust her with the whole secret of
 ‘ my guilt and my misfortunes; I only
 ‘ told her, that I had a quarrel with my
 ‘ husband and had swore not to sleep
 ‘ with him that night; so desired she
 ‘ would be hospitable enough to afford
 ‘ me a bed, as I knew she had one to
 ‘ spare.

‘ The former part of that night I past
 ‘ in the most cruel agitations, but to-

‘ wards the latter grew somewhat more
‘ composed; the vivacity of my temper
‘ represented to me, that I was not the
‘ first woman who had liv’d in a state of
‘ separation from her husband; that the
‘ discourse of these things was soon over;
‘ that I had a lover who would always
‘ supply me with the necessaries of life;
‘ and that the loss of reputation would
‘ be attoned for by the endearments of
‘ so worthy a man: thus, alafs! was my
‘ judgment misguided by my fond pas-
‘ sion for that ungrateful wretch.

‘ I dispatch’d a messenger to him next
‘ morning, he came immediately, desired
‘ I would provide a handsome lodging
‘ for myself; and assured me, with a thou-
‘ sand protestations, that his purse and his
‘ person should always be at my devo-
‘ tion: notwithstanding this I wrote to
‘ my husband, excusing my transgression
‘ as well as I was able; he sent me all
‘ the things I had left behind; but re-
‘ turn’d for answer to my letter, that he
‘ was determined never to see my face
‘ again; and that all he would do for
‘ me was to pay for my board, on con-
‘ dition I would retire to a farm-house
‘ an hundred and fifty miles from Lon-
‘ don, and never more come back.

‘ Gladly

• Gladly therefore I accepted of Celan-
• dine's offer,—hired an apartment, and
• thought myself as happy as a woman
• in my circumstances could be.—I was,
• indeed, but too well satisfied with my
• condition;—I wanted for nothing that
• I desired, and had more than I could
• have expected of the company of the
• man I priz'd above the world:—but
• alafs! these golden days were of a short
• continuance,—too soon I found, by sad
• experience, that a lover, as well as a
• husband, could grow cool on a sure
• possession.'

• I cannot, however, accuse him of be-
• ing a niggard to me in his allowance
• for my support; but loving him to
• that excess I did, it was an adequate
• return of love which alone could make
• me truly blest.'

• At last he talk'd of going to Bath;
• I testify'd an extreme desire of accom-
• panying him; but he endeavour'd to
• put me off, by pretences which seem'd
• to me very trifling, till I insisting upon
• his taking me with him, he plainly
• told me that I must not think of it,
• for he was to go with persons by whom
• it was wholly improper I should be
• seen.

‘seen. I wept, but he was not softened
• by my tears, only laying ten guineas
• on the table bid be console myself with
• that till his return, and then took his
• leave with the same careless air as he
• could have done of the most slight ac-
• quaintance.’

‘Judge how severe a stab this must
• give both to my love and pride;—I
• saw, by the manner of his refusing, that
• there was something more at the bottom
• than he made shew of, and resolved to
• fathom it whatever should be the event;
• —accordingly, as he left London one
• day in a post-chaise I follow’d the next
• in the stage-coach.’

Here the reflection on those wild lengths, to which the folly of her passion had transported her, made her again unable to proceed, and the company were obliged to give a truce to their curiosity till she recover’d herself enough to go on with her narrative, in the manner which will be seen in the succeeding chapter.





C H A P. XXVI.

Will gratify the readers impatience with the conclusion of mrs. M---'s history; and also with what effects the recital of it produced in the minds of those who heard it.

THE unfortunate mrs. M— having dried up her tears, and made the best apology she could to the ladies for this interruption, resumed her discourse in these words :

‘ I took up my lodgings on my arrival here, said she, at the inn where I alighted, and sent immediately in search of Celandine;—he came the next day, but his looks, before he spoke, made me know how little he was pleased with seeing me, “ I thought madam, said he, I said enough to prevent you from coming hither; and am surprized you should act in a manner so contrary to my inclination.”

‘ I told him, that I found it impossible to live so long a time without him; and

‘ and a great deal of such fond idle stuff,
‘ which he as little regarded as indeed
‘ it deserved ; —he insisted on my re-
‘ turn to London the next morning ;
‘ which after some tears, I at last pro-
‘ mised to do, on condition that he
‘ would dine with me that day. It was
‘ with some difficulty I prevail’d upon
‘ him to give me his company, even for
‘ the few hours I requested it ; —nor
‘ would I have taken so much pains to
‘ obtain so small a favour, if I had not
‘ flatter’d myself with being able to win
‘ him yet further to my purpose.’

‘ But my hopes deceived me, —in vain
‘ I try’d all the arts that love inspir’d me
‘ with, —he was inflexible to all my in-
‘ treaties, —unmoved by my indearments,
‘ and treated all I said to him on the score
‘ of my staying here with so much con-
‘ tempt, that the pride and spirit which
‘ my passion for him had but too much
‘ quell’d, began to rouse themselves in
‘ me ; —I told him that he had no right
‘ to prescribe the place of my residence ;
‘ that Bath was equally as free for me as
‘ for himself ; and that I would not leave
‘ it. On this he started up, and with a
‘ countenance full of spite. —“ ’Tis very
“ well, said he, you then may stay ; but I
“ fancy you will find it extremely diffi-
“ cult

“ cult to support yourself either here or
“ any where else without my assistance,
“ which you may be assured I shall ne-
“ ver afford to one who acts in oppo-
“ sition to my will.”

‘ The consideration of my wretched
‘ circumstances made me tremble at this
‘ menace, and again reduced me to sub-
‘ mission ; I implored his pardon for
‘ the rashness of my passion, and pro-
‘ mised I would hereafter do in every
‘ thing as he would have me ; this paci-
‘ fied him ; and sitting down again, “ I
“ would have you, said he, behave like
“ a reasonable woman, and one who
“ knows the world ; our amour has
“ been of a long continuance, and you
“ cannot expect a man like me should
“ always confine himself to one object :
“ to deal sincerely with you, I am here
“ on the invitation of a woman of con-
‘ dition, whom I have the good fortune
“ to be well with ; if you offer to inter-
“ fere with my pleasures I have done
“ with you for ever ; therefore, it depends
“ entirely on yourself to keep me your
“ friend or not.

‘ It is amazing, even to myself, to
‘ think how I had the power to conceal
‘ the agonies which rent my heart at
‘ this

‘ this impudent declaration ; yet it is
‘ certain that I did so : I avow’d to do
‘ every thing he required of me, and
‘ to regulate my conduct henceforward
‘ so as never to offend him ; he seem’d
‘ pleas’d with my assurance, put five
‘ guineas into my hand to defray the un-
‘ necessary expence, as he called it, -of
‘ my coming hither, gave me a kiss,
‘ wish’d me a good journey to London,
‘ and then left me to indulge the trans-
‘ ports of a rage the more violent for
‘ having been suppress’d.

‘ I did not, however, waste much time
‘ in giving way to emotions which would
‘ neither avail my love or my revenge ;
‘ to think of doing what I had promised
‘ to him was far from me ; I resolved to
‘ see the face that had supplanted me in
‘ his affections ; how afterwards I would
‘ behave I did not then consider : this
‘ was the first great point on which my
‘ soul was fix’d ; and to accomplish it
‘ went that evening and hired a lodg ing
‘ in the most private part of the town :
‘ the people of the house, on my signify-
‘ ing to them that I wanted an adroit
‘ boy, or young fellow, to run on errands
‘ and wait on me while I stay’d at Bath,
‘ were so kind to help me to one exactly
‘ fit for my purpose ; he had been a
‘ waiter

‘ waiter in a coffee-house last season
‘ when Celandine was here, and knew
‘ him perfectly well.

‘ The chief business I employed him
‘ in was to stand sentry near the house
‘ where Celandine lodg’d, to watch him
‘ wherever he went, to find out the
‘ names and characters of the persons he
‘ visited, and to bring me an exact ac-
‘ count.

‘ By the diligence of this emissary I
‘ discover’d that he visited here every
‘ day ; that he constantly attended three
‘ ladies from hence to the walks—the
‘ long room—the play, and all public
‘ places ; that one of these ladies he
‘ seem’d most particularly attached to ;
‘ and that she was call’d lady Speck.

Mr. Lovegrove turn’d his eyes on lady Speck, at these words, with some surprise ; she was in a good deal of confusion and cried out, ‘ Your spy was mis-
‘ taken in his intelligence in this point,
‘ his attachment was equal to us all,
‘ and I dare say was equally regarded.’

‘ Pardon me, madam, resumed the un-
‘ fortunate historian ; I knew not then,
‘ nor am yet certain to which of you
‘ the

‘ the name of lady Speck belongs ; you
‘ will not wonder, that in those moments
‘ of my jealous rage, I wish’d destruction
‘ on the charms that had undone me ;
‘ but this unlucky day above all I was
‘ least able to command my passion ; the
‘ boy brought me word that he had seen
‘ Celandine in the walks with two of
‘ you, whom presently he quitted and
‘ hurried to this house ; on which I
‘ concluded the third lady who stay’d at
‘ home, and to whom he was in so
‘ much haste to retire, was the person
‘ who I should henceforth look on as
‘ my rival ; and at that instant fired
‘ with emotions, to which reason can
‘ set no bounds, I muffled myself up
‘ as you see, ran through the streets like
‘ one broke loose from Bedlam ; on my
‘ coming here I found the door open, a
‘ servant-maid was doing something in
‘ the hall, and on my enquiring for
‘ Celandine she told me he had come in
‘ a little before, and she believed was
‘ then in the arbour at the lower end
‘ of the garden, for she had seen him
‘ pass that way ; I flew directly to the
‘ place she mention’d ; but the fury I
‘ was in had so blinded me that I did
‘ not readily perceive the entrance ; I
‘ heard the voice of my perfidious lover,
‘ and thrust my head through the lattice,
‘ and

‘ and my whole body had certainly
‘ broke through that slender partition,
‘ if those who occasion’d my despair had
‘ not that moment rush’d out of the
‘ place : at this sight distraction took
‘ possession of my brain ; all hell and
‘ its worst furies were in my heart ; I
‘ drew my penknife, resolved to sheath
‘ it in the villian’s breast ; but I know
‘ not how it was, continued she, addres-
‘ sing herself to Jenny, you, madam, were
‘ nearest to me, and the blow I meant
‘ for him, in my mistaken rage was
‘ aim’d at you : what follow’d I am
‘ wholly ignorant of ; for my disappoint-
‘ ed rage recoiling upon myself, together
‘ with the rude blow the villain gave
‘ me in wresting the penknife from my
‘ hand, stopp’d all the springs of life,
‘ till your charitable endeavours put them
‘ again in motion, and called me back to
‘ sense, to shame, to misery, and the
‘ racks of thought.’

Thus did mrs. M—— conclude her tedious narrative ; but did not give over speaking till she afresh intreated pardon of the company for the disturbance she had occasion’d in the family, and of Jenny in particular, who had suffer’d most through the extravagance she had been guilty of ; to which that young lady

lady, with a great deal of sweetneſs, tho' not without ſome bluſhes at the remembrance of Celandine's behaviour, reply'd in these terms: 'I can eaſily forgive the fright you put me into, ſaid ſhe, as I know not but it was your ſeaſonable interruption which chiefly preſerved me from a worse miſchief than that which I was threaten'd with by your miſtaken jealousy.'

'I did not know, my dear, ſaid miſſ Wingman with a gay air, that the inclinations of Celandine were devoted to you; or that he left us ſo abruptly in the walks on purpoſe to have the pleasure of entertaining you alone.' Jenny was about to make ſome anſwer, but was prevented by mr. Lovegrove, who haſtily taking up the word, cried out, 'Tis diſſicult, madam, to know the real inclinations of a man ſuch a Celandine; for I take him to be one of thoſe ſo elegantly deſcribed by mr. Rowe in his play call'd the Fair Penitent:

A ſinging, dancing, worthleſs tribe
they are,

Who talk of beauties that they never
ſaw,

And boaſt of favours that they ne'er
enjoy'd.

In

In repeating these lines he fix'd his eyes on lady Speck, who seeming more than ordinarily pensive, and making no answer, he went on ; ' The poet, resum'd ' he, throughout that whole performance, ' shews himself very much a friend to the ' ladies, especially when gives them this ' advice :

Were you, ye fair, but cautious whom you trust,
 Would you but think how seldom
 fools are just,
 So many of your sex would not in
 vain,
 Of faithless men and broken vows
 complain.
 Of all the various wretches love has
 made,
 How few have been by men of sense
 betray'd ;
 Convinc'd by reason, they your
 power confess,
 Pleas'd to be happy as you're pleas'd
 to bless,
 And conscious of your worth can
 never love you less.

Here ensued a silence, which perhaps had continued yet longer if it had not been broke by miss Wingman, that young lady having her thoughts more at liberty than any of the rest of the company,

company, and who indeed loved talking so well, that it was a pain to her to forbear it for any considerable time. Turning towards mrs. M——, ‘ I am surprised, madam, said she, that your unfaithful lover having the confidence to avow his guilt, by telling you that he came down to Bath on the invitation of a woman of fashion, that you had not the curiosity to ask him the name and quality of the person for whose sake you were undone ; since he had so little discretion as to let you into one part of the secret, he would certainly have made you acquainted with the whole, if you had desired it.’

‘ It must be confess’d, rejoined Jenny, that such an enquiry would have been highly natural in mrs. M——; and, if answer’d to her satisfaction, might have saved her the trouble of employing an emissary to watch the motions of Celandine ; but for my part, I have little cause to wish it had been so ; since it was to her mistaken jealousy I was indebted for the seasonable relief I received from the insolent impertinencies of that vain and unworthy coxcomb.’

‘ It is also possible, madam, cried mr. Lovegrove, in an extraordinary emotion ; such

‘ such an eclaircissement might have been attended with worse consequences than you think on. Who can tell, added he with still more vehemence, but that he might have mention’d the name of some lady who wants not an admirer zealous enough to have vindicated her reputation at the expence of his own life or that of the traducer ?’

‘ I know not, replied mrs. M— sighing, what consequences may have been prevented, or what might have ensued by the discovery of my rival ; but this I am certain of, that I was so shock’d at his ingratitude, so astonish’d at his assurance, and so terrified with his menaces, that I had then neither presence of mind nor courage to put the question to him.’

Lady Speck, who had not spoke one syllable for a considerable time, now affected a prodigious gaiety du cœur, ‘ The demand you mean, said she, I believe would have been to very little purpose ; I dare answer Celandine would have been strangely puzzled to have informed you in any particulars of the fond lady for whose sake he came to Bath ; men of his romantic disposition worship images of their own formation ; boast of visionary favours, and take as much

‘ much pleasure in the shadow as others
‘ do in the substance.

‘ True, madam, cried mr. Lovegrove
‘ gravely ; but if they should happen to
‘ assign real names to their ideal mistresses,
‘ what but the blood of such a villain
‘ could attone for his presumption ?

No reply was made to this ; and mrs. M— thinking it would best become her to take leave of the company, which she did in the most respectful manner, every body assured her they pity'd her misfortunes, and that they sincerely wish'd something might happen to extricate her from the labyrinth in which she was at present involv'd.

After she was gone, there soon remain'd none but miss Wingman and Jenny to maintain a conversation ; mr. Lovegrove, a good deal disconcerted at some passages he had heard related by mrs. M—, pretending busines call'd him, went away ; and lady Speck, who was extremely out of humour, and had been at some pain to conceal it, took this opportunity of retiring to her closet, in order to compose the troubles of her mind.





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